

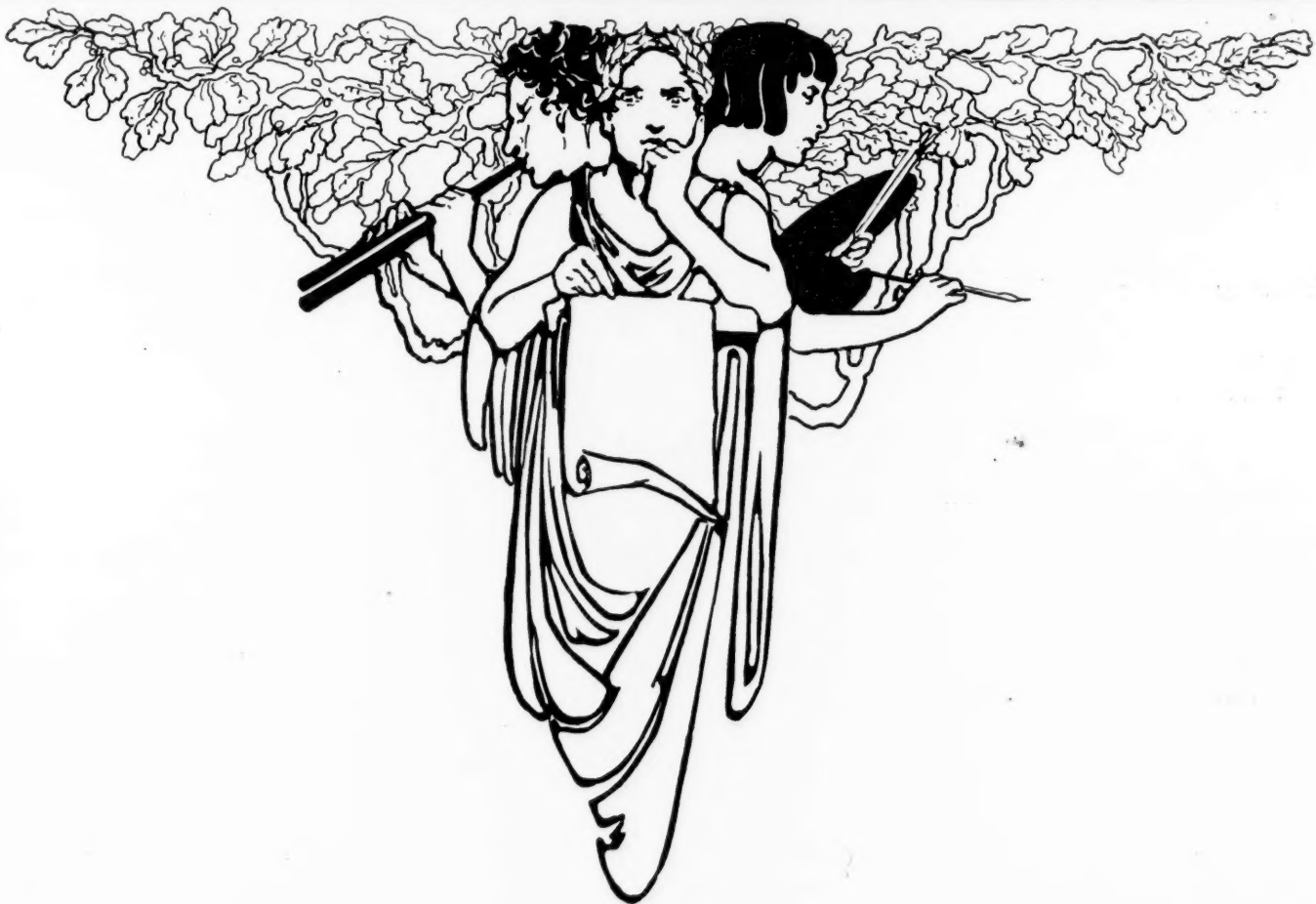
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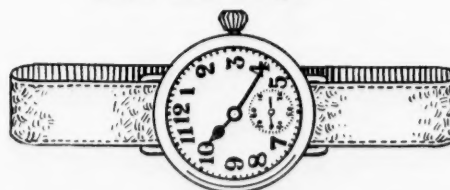


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# REEDY'S MIRROR

Vol. XXVI. No. 26

ST. LOUIS, FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 1917

PRICE TEN CENTS

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WILLIAM M. REEDY, Editor and Proprietor.

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## The Reign of Rot-Gut

By William Marion Reedy

NOTWITHSTANDING the fact that prohibition would paralyze St. Louis, in spite of the fact that all the St. Louis brewers are personal friends and business patrons of mine, I make bold to write a few lines in opposition to the prohibition clause in the House food control bill.

This legislation is not a war measure. It is a piece of fanaticism put over on the country under the mask of patriotism. No such a sweeping interference with the habits of the people, the vast majority of whom are not drunkards, no such wholesale confiscation of properties built up under state protection and participation should be carried out without the consent and approval of the country as a whole. The congress has no mandate to enact prohibition.

As a necessity of war the enactment is not defensible. Germany has not abolished beer-drinking. France still permits the manufacture and sale of wine and supplies it to her soldiers in the field. Great Britain decreed a reduction of the beer and ale output, but is now about to ordain an increase of the barrelage by a large percentage.

That the stoppage of beer-making will save for food enough grain to warrant such action is not established. If we were confronted by such shortage of supplies as confronts Great Britain, the thing might be justified, but we are not. The grain crops are to be greater than have been anticipated. And what an absurdity to save grain from the vats here in order to send it away to be made into beer in Great Britain!

What an atrocity against temperance to leave the hard liquor supply untouched while annihilating the milder beverages! The whiskey supply will be increased in price in such a way as to make incalculable fortunes for those who have it in storage. The people who drink will have all the more dangerous stuff they can afford to pay for. By forcing the drinkers to the fierier fluids, drunkenness will be increased rather than diminished. Beer and light wines are the drinks of temperateness. To forbid their manufacture and sale is to encourage the very abuse the prohibitionists want to abolish.

Prohibition will not help the United States to win the war. It will not help at all in unifying the people. It will be an harassment to the great majority of the people. It will promote discontent and social division. It will inconvenience an hundred men who are not harmed by moderate drinking where it will keep one drunkard out of his cups.

Moreover, the action of the House will deprive the government of revenue at the hour of the most urgent need thereof. It will wipe out two billions of capital. It will empty stores and dwellings of their tenants. It will throw millions of men out of employment in the liquor and ramifyingly related industries. These people will be thrown into acute distress and they will not be soon absorbed into the other industries. So far as the drunkards are concerned, they will find their supply of drunk-producing fluid at innumerable private stills, for anyone can make whiskey in his home if he wants to do so. The sots and soaks won't suffer. The man who drinks a little and not enough to hurt will be deprived of a gratification that is not a sin in itself under any law, human or divine. Every decent man would give up his drink to help his country, but it doesn't help the

country to have one's habits, harmless alike to himself and the community, interfered with at the behest of a minority of myopic moralists and kill-joys. It does not seem to most sensible men that it is decent, not to say magnanimous, to destroy the great brewing business because most of the brewers are of German birth or descent or supposed sympathies.

This prohibition rider on the food bill is an abuse of popular government. It is a political trick played by a well organized and copiously financed aggregation of bigoted folk. Congressmen were put up against prohibition, and to please their constituents voted for it in connection with a measure with which it has no logical relation. It were bad enough to smash an industry and cancel \$500,000,000 of national revenue, not to mention the liquor revenues of the various states, if the people in the industry were given time to make necessary readjustment of their interests, but this measure destroys the business and the revenue in the twinkling of an eye. The country agrees to submit to and coöperate in food control and finds prohibition suddenly imposed upon it. The country needs all its industries going and one of the greatest, as furnishing employment and revenue, is destroyed.

We don't want to put this country on a whiskey basis as the first step in the war. That's what the prohibition rider to the food control bill will do. It won't increase the supply of bread. It will increase the price of booze. Where there was one drunk there will be fifty or a hundred on vile whiskey. Will that promote efficiency in store or mill or mine or on the rails?

The country may go for prohibition some day. Very well; let it go there deliberately, after full and free discussion in the open. If the people want it they will have it. But the law should not be slipped over on us while we are concerned with other things and chiefly with the conservation of our resources for a war for human freedom. Shall we force our soldiers from their beer to indulgence in rot-gut with quarrel and murder in every gill? Do we want drunkenness or temperance? Snap prohibition such as the House rider provides for is as inimical to national welfare, in its fiscal lunacy, as it is tyrannous upon individual, personal liberty. Let us hope the senate will have some common sense and kill the iniquitous dry clause.

♦♦♦♦

## Reflections

By William Marion Reedy

*This Good Old Town*

ST. LOUIS very substantially oversubscribed its allotment of the Liberty Loan. Now it doubles its quota of the \$100,000,000 Red Cross subscription. These performances, let us hope, will do away with the legend in the East that this is the farthest outlying province of the German empire. There never was any faintest doubt of the loyalty of St. Louis or of its generosity. The recent demonstration of both has done away with a myth. Both events were of the nature of a civic festivity. The old town had a lot of fun in the doing of its bit. Our communal spirit is stronger than most people suspect. It has a specialty in the raising of funds. It gives with alacrity for good causes with a dash of the ideal in them. Possibly it lacks somewhat in the coöperation for material or strictly business purposes that characterizes other cities. It



does not pull together for projects of commercial advancement, but start a subscription for something out of which nobody makes any personal profit and everybody comes in cheerfully. In no great charitable or patriotic purpose of a national character has it ever been backward, and in such works the city proves by the enlistment of people of all classes that it is the most democratic community in the country. Participation in such undertakings is remarkably widely distributed. We have no such extremely wealthy people as are to be found in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Cleveland, but our moderately wealthy folks are not deficient in the philanthropic spirit and they give generally in a way to sustain the reputation of the place for genuine friendliness of feeling. Whenever St. Louis is called on for her share she is there in good shape. And for the support of her own charities and various institutions of community effort she is never in the vocative. 'Tis a good old town, St. Louis, and its worst defect is that it does not vaunt itself raucously before the world. There is every good thing here, spiritual and material, and there is a happy lack of many bad things that are to be found in the other big cities. We are disposed too much to depreciate ourselves. For proof take the occasions that prompt this paragraph. St. Louis doesn't feel that it has done anything but its duty, and it is quite simply and naturally preparing to perpetuate the Liberty Loan and Red Cross organizations for the meeting of other like demands upon its resources in the future, with an emphatic declaration that the local good works shall not suffer in the least by reason of especially heavy drafts upon the city for help in national emergencies.

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#### *The Habit of Giving*

THE country has had an exercise of its generosity lately. It is a good thing. People have been giving, giving, giving for various causes for three years. The total of gifts must be enormous. Now the course in giving has been capped by the great Red Cross contribution. The success of this latter adventure in helpfulness has been enormous. Some people profess to be surprised thereby. They should not be surprised. For there is no habit that grows upon people more than this habit of giving. If you will think a moment you will remember that no man who has ever begun giving has ever stopped it—not even at death. These philanthropic folk are by cynics said to engage in the practice for the gratification of their own vanity. There may be some little truth in the saying, but it must be borne in mind that these are and have been hard-headed business men, hateful of waste and of ineffectiveness. Often they must be disappointed in results, but they never discontinue their benevolent activities. You will find them always on every subscription list. They are men to whom, in their respective communities, whenever there is need of aid for things deserving, their neighbors and fellow-citizens turn at once for contributions. They are often deceived and frequently "done," but that does not tighten their purse-strings. Most of them do not even have to be solicited. They volunteer their funds. They have a pleasure in giving that disappointments cannot spoil and they will say, if you ask them, that they are satisfied with the results they get upon the whole. Constantly new recruits join their ranks and it is interesting to observe how the man who begins by giving trepidatingly and in a small way develops into a temerarious and copious disbursing of funds. You will find him perhaps piqued that some subscription has been brought off to which he was not a party. Then givers are not always the very wealthy either. It is surprising how much is given by men of what can justly be called moderate means. Few of them specialize in objects of generosity. Any good project appeals to them. Most of them do as much, or more, privately than they do publicly. Anyone in any community who is called upon frequently to help raise money for things that are not investments is aware that there are a number of "sure shots," unflinching yes-sayers to the callers for

a contribution. And each time the need arises there are new ones who are getting into the giving habit. Usually they will be found to be men hard as nails in a business deal, close figurers, looking for the discount for cash, and all that. There is nothing about them of the "sucker." I have found that most of them say that they have found that giving grows upon them. It isn't that they forget how to say "no," for they can say it, like a steel trap shutting, in business matters. When there comes a great drive like the one for the Red Cross, all the regulars respond, but many others are drawn into the movement by the especial force of the immediate object and of these new men a great many develop into stand-bys. The Red Cross subscription has made countless steadies for future touches. I have no doubt that the great campaign for the Liberty Loan brought many a subscription to the Red Cross—a felicitous exemplification of that crowd psychology to which are attributed more bad things than good. Not that I would say that subscription to the loan was charity, but it was a rally to the support of the government. The evidence is strong that giving is both infectious and contagious. One wishes that it were possible for giving to cure the ills and sorrows that invoke it. It doesn't. Society as organized creates more need than charity can ever cope with. Alms may help victims. They do not reach causes. But so much granted, we must still approve of giving, for it is a sign of the growth of sympathy and understanding, and understanding may find its way to root remedies. We must have more and more change of heart before we can do very much in the way of changing the social system, and as it happens there have to be givers even to the cause of social and economic reform. The growth of the giving habit is lapping over into the field of reform. I have no fear that this is one good custom that will corrupt the world, and the best thing about the giving habit is that it tends after a while to lead many men who begin merely by giving money, to giving themselves to ameliorative work on the economic plane.

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#### *Our Army in France*

Two detachments of the American army are in France. Probably three or four others will join them there within a week. One cannot write much of such things, but in all likelihood these troops are not "rookies;" they have probably had gruelling experience recently along the Mexican border. It will not be long before they will be in the fighting. Then they will quit themselves like men—and then too there will be mourning mingled with pride in this country. The transports escaped the German submarines, which we may be sure lay in wait for them. It is thought that the falling off in the sinking of merchant ships has been due to the fact that the submarines were out for the transports. The mere arrival of our army—possibly of 50,000 men, though there is no information on this point—is of large significance. It will show Germany that we are losing no time in getting into the war with all the force at our command. It will prove to our allies that we are coming at the earliest possible hour, five hundred thousand strong, while drilling a few million more. Our army and our navy are fretting for a fight, we may be sure. There will be a great fourth of July in England, France, Russia and Italy over this news, and a greater fourth here, though many hearts be aching with anxiety.

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#### *The United Railways Compromise*

PROPOSALS for settlement of the difficulties between the city and the United Railways are being formulated in an ordinance. They include payment of the accrued mill-per-passenger tax in installments; reduction of capitalization, fixation of limit of earnings; representation on the board of directors of the road by city officials; the extension of underlying expired or expiring franchises and an extension of the general franchise for a period long enough to facilitate the refinancing of the company; a sharing

by the city in the profits of operation, somewhat as is done in Chicago and some other cities. If the compromise in contemplation be not effected, the railway system will be bankrupt and broken up into its original component parts, involving loss both to the stock and bond holders of the company and to the city. The president of the company, Mr. Richard McCulloch, meets the city in a spirit of evident fairness. He wants to save his company from disaster and to re-establish relations with the municipality that will permit the profitable operation of the property. The request that the annual tax per passenger be reduced is fair and the readiness to reduce the capitalization is, all things considered, a generous concession. The city may demand a reduction in fares, but it is doubtful that the property could stand it. Franchise extensions are pending in court and the issue may drag along for years. It would save time to settle the matter by compromise now, especially as the company has a strong *prima facie* case for its contentions. The city is asked to give up no rights, to surrender no authority over the company. It will still collect a passenger tax, though reduced to a figure that the company can meet without wiping out its funds for improvements and extensions. There will be, of course, demands for more ruthless dealing with the company than the conference has considered. Maybe the company has been wicked, but even so, the city does not want the corporation to be lynched. The company has learned its lesson and is willing to be good and the city can pass an ordinance to keep it good. Give the United Railways a chance to reform and at the same time to subsist.

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#### *Big Bill of Chicago*

FOR once Chicago possesses something big that she is not proud of. It is her mayor—Big Bill Thompson. Even the Chicago aldermen are ashamed of him. The charitable think he is a case of paresis; but most people simply wonder whether he is an ass or a crook.

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PROHIBITION is the issue that is always sprung to frustrate every worthy political purpose. Just now it is thrust forward to obstruct the nation's work of making effective war and to help Germany. Everything else can go to hell, if prohibitionists can only fasten their fanatical fad upon their unfortunate fellows.

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#### *More of the Irony of Ireland*

RIOTING by Sinn Feiners in Dublin and Cork in celebration of the British amnesty to prisoners incarcerated for the Easter insurrection of 1916 is not calculated to inspire hope of a happy outcome of the proposed Irish convention to consider a programme for home rule. The party of the rioters will not participate in the convention. Unfortunately, the party is as strong as it is bitter and irreconcilable. It has been strengthened by defections from the Nationalist party because the Nationalists in Parliament stood for Carson in the British cabinet. Sinn Fein rioting will not make Ulsterites contemplate with equanimity the idea of home rule. To them it will be a threat of violence. The men who stone the police will probably be only too ready to stone Orangemen. The conservative elements in the Nationalist party will be repelled from participation in the convention. People in business and in the professions, the clergy and others will be disheartened by the extremism of the Sinn Feiners. What use of a home rule convention, if, after home rule has been agreed upon, the Sinn Fein element is determined to insist upon a continuance of violent revolution in behalf of absolute and unqualified independence for Ireland? Rioting must be put down and revolution will be suppressed. The British government will do it and armed Ulster will probably take a hand. The intransigent Irish are not helping Ireland. They are promoting civil war. They cannot hope to win for their idea. It is unthinkable that England will permit the establishment of an in-



veterately hostile independent republic right at her door—another Heligoland commanding the British kingdom militarily, from the West, that would offer itself as a base of attack to any enemy or enemies of the British empire. It is equally unthinkable that industrial Ulster will ever consent to become part of a nation dominated by the spirit of Sinn Fein. Ulster will hold off or at the very best yield only a perfunctory countenance to a convention that will not be able to guarantee the repression of such violence as the Sinn Feiners seem determined to perpetrate. Moreover, as I gather from Margaret Skinnider's remarkable and illuminating little book on the revolutionary movement, "Doing My Bit for Ireland" (the Century Co., New York), the revolution is not possessed of the genius or the resources that will enable it to dominate the Irish situation. As this fine-souled girl tells the story of the Dublin insurrection and her part in it—she looks like *Rosalind* in the rôle—that event was a pathetic flash in the pan. Its preliminary arrangements broke down and the manoeuvres that were to inaugurate the uprising on Easter day were called off by the head of the volunteers. The arrival of the German ship with 30,000 rifles and a million rounds of ammunition was miscalculated and, though Miss Skinnider says not, the fact of the coming of the *Aud* was probably betrayed to the English. For all its idealistic fervor, for all its rather jejune enthusiasm the revolution's programme was a pathetic failure. The preparation for the event ignored all the factors necessary to success, and the uprising proceeded upon a basis of hopelessly misunderstood conditions. Much as you must love the men and women of the insurrection, you cannot but feel the pathos of them and it is heightened and deepened by the blending of absurdity with the unreckoning devotion of the undertaking. And revolution now is more hopeless, with, as I understand, 200,000 English troops in Ireland. The Sinn Feiners cannot win for themselves, but, unfortunately, they appear to be just strong enough to assure the futilization of the home rule convention. They are going to force Ulster to stay under arms. Their maleficent activities are just sufficient to justify the charge that the Nationalists cannot give any guarantee of ability to bring Ireland to peaceful acceptance of any programme of home rule. Amnesty has not mollified the Sinn Feiners. They remember only their executed leaders. They hate the Nationalists who support the government—with Carson in it—that carried out those executions. There is little hope of Nationalist control of southern Ireland when the bishop of Cork talks the irreconcilableness that prelate talked to Mr. John Kirby of the New York *World* and St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*. That churchman condemned Ulster industrialism as being an intolerable thing to agricultural and dreaming Ireland. Ulster will never want to come into a government animated by that spirit against herself. Nationalist property interests will be alienated from a home rule plan that will be fought by Sinn Fein. The revolutionists are not touched by the heroic deaths of such brilliant Nationalists as Willie Redmond and T. M. Kettle, for England. Mr. T. P. O'Connor, most charming of men and cleverest of politicians, has come to this country to plead the Nationalist cause. I am afraid that the Sinn Feiners have forestalled him with the Irish in the United States to such an extent as to prevent his securing a solid Irish-American support of the home rule convention. The home rule convention cannot meet with any hope of success until a violent element of the Irish that does not want home rule has been suppressed. Such a condition and situation do not constitute an argument in favor of Irish capacity for home rule. If Sinn Fein is financed by German money, as is believed, then all English liberal sympathy for home rule will be alienated. The Irish riots may not amount to much but they are symptomatic of grave dangers to the home rule cause. Premier Lloyd-George will probably not dissolve the convention because of them,

but he cannot have much hope of it. Mr. O'Connor is optimistic. Mr. William O'Brien is not. Tim Healy must find the situation mightily ministrant to his inextinguishable malice. Sir Edward Carson probably smiles his slanting smile and says nothing but looks "I told you so." One wonders what the Irishmen in the British trenches in Flanders think of it. It is enough to please Heine's Aristophanes of Heaven; to lend a fine ironic touch to the jolly saying, "God is good to the Irish."



#### *Too Much Autogeny*

A SELF-PERPETUATING board of directors of the Zoölogical Society won't do. The board has the handling of a goodly sum of public money raised by taxation every year. The members of that board should be chosen by officials responsible to the people who pay the taxes. That the board has done a good work in establishing the zoo in Forest Park everyone admits, but that is no reason why the institution should remain always under the control of a few men with a perfect understanding among themselves and no responsibility direct or indirect to the public.



#### *The Chevalier Sinjin*

MR. T. ST. JOHN (pronounced Sinjin) GAFFNEY has turned up at Stockholm, "representing Ireland" in the Socialist conference. The Chevalier is about as much of a Socialist as Cardinal Gibbons is an atheist. He comes of a noble family in Limerick and he has a fine contempt for work. President Roosevelt made him consul at Dresden, whence he was transferred to Munich, and in that position he got mixed up in anti-British propaganda at the outbreak of the war. President Wilson removed him over his protests of innocence and now we see what those protests amounted to. The Chevalier has some fame as an Irish patriot—and he does love Ireland. But the secretary of the Stockholm conference says that the accredited representative of Irish Socialism is Thomas O'Brien, and Gaffney has no standing in the gathering. I am sorry that Sinjin is to be barred from the meeting. I venture the assertion that there will not be a man there who can wear a monocle with the grace of the Chevalier—to say nothing of his white spats.



#### *Where Their Friends Are*

THOSE Russian socialists, anarchists, nihilists, etc., who are playing Germany's game just now have forgot that in the past people of their kind were not allowed to alight for long in Germany. Those that did not settle in Switzerland found refuge and protection either in England or France or the United States. So far as they or their theories have had any friends, those friends were the governments now at war with Germany. The Russian governments that persecuted these men were German in their sympathies. Let Germany win and the Muscovite revolutionists will be given short shrift.



#### *The Inexhaustible Source*

IN the United States senate statesmen are hitting all around the land question in its relation to the raising of both food and revenue, and never once ringing center. Senator Sheppard of Texas has introduced a resolution for a constitutional amendment giving congress power to purchase land anywhere in the United States, hold, improve, subdivide and sell the same and also to make loans for the purpose of encouraging and promoting farm ownership in the United States, provided that the land shall not be sold at less than cost. Senator Borah has proposed to increase food production by the reclamation of arid lands. Senator Phelan of California would stimulate production by leasing land withdrawn from entry under irrigation projects. The Senate Irrigation Committee proposes new ir-

rigation projects. None of these will get results. The way to do this is to tax and surtax the unimproved lands now held out of use in every state in the union. That will force the land to productive use. The tax on such land will be taken off productive business. It will not hurt the farmer who farms his farm. It will "get" the land speculator whose functioning in the social scheme underlies all the food speculation Mr. Hoover complains about.



#### *Prophets of Evil*

Now there are prophesied for us more troubles. The small investors in the liberty bonds are going to default on their payments. The bonds are to be paid for thus: 2 per cent on application, 18 per cent on June 28th, 20 per cent on July 30th, and 30 per cent each on August 15th and 30th. These payments come too close together, especially for the little fellows who were coerced into subscribing for bonds as they were coerced into marching for preparedness. It is said that time-payment-house managers make this prediction with regard to the bonds and it is pointed out that failure to meet installments on time will result in forfeiture of previous payments. There may be some difficulty of this kind, but it seems that as the bonds were oversubscribed to the extent of about \$900,000,000 there will be plenty of people ready to take the bonds that some subscribers may be unable or unwilling to pay for. To what extent men, and women, too, were forced to subscribe for bonds with the alternative of losing their jobs, it is hard to say. The charge that with a majority of the purchasers the bond issue was a forced loan is a rather loose one. We shall have to await the facts. Just now the loan is being insidiously discredited by pacifists and pro-Germans, between whom latterly there is little either of distinction or difference.



#### *What's Eatin' Max*

MAXIM GORKY can never forget that when he came to this country with a lady who was not his wife they were not received in the best society. But he should remember that this was due to the fact that he came some years before sex o'clock. It is as great a misfortune to be ahead of the times as to be behind them. Gorky is a good writer but a poor statesman. And some of us seem to remember a time when he was not thought to be ultraloyal to the radicals of Russia. We must concede, however, that he has a good case against the American bourgeoisie of the days of his traveling here. I am not condemning Maxim; only explaining him.



WHEN Mr. William Jennings Bryan came out for food control, that carried with it, by implication, drink control to the point of prohibition. It may be said that the House went dry when Willie tipped the wink.



#### *The Issue of Religion*

THE French-Canadians will not fight for the entente because they don't like the English and because France abolished the Concordat. In Ireland many of the people who would have fought for France are opposed to making war on Germany because France is governed, as they think, by Free Masons. Catholic Belgium's woes do not move these people in the least. Cardinal Mercier's protests and appeals touch them not. William Redmond's death in the field for France and England, and, as he proclaimed, for Ireland, with his last words breathing beautiful prayers to the Virgin Mother, leaves the Sinn Feiners cold. Catholic priests in numbers have died in the French trenches. The recruiting officers tell all this in vain to the Canadian habitants. The Nationalist leaders have dwelt upon it in their speeches in Ireland, without result. Of course, the opposition in Ireland and French Canada is more racial than religious. It is based really upon hatred of England. The Catholicism of it is a kind of



afterthought. There is more of politics than of religion in the recalcitrancy of both Ireland and French Canada. Not all the Sinn Feiners even are Roman Catholics. The psychologists may explain this curious situation. All the ordinary commentator may do is to remark that the war was bad enough without the admixture of the *odium theologicum*.

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#### Salute Mr. Root

MR. ELIHU ROOT has made a number of speeches in Russia. He has not oversaid nor undersaid anything. Neither flattery nor condescension has he dealt in. If he has not said all that could be said, he has said all that should be said. And he has said it with the elegance of simplicity, subordinating himself with the most delicate tact to President Wilson. In a trying situation, to audiences requiring the subtlest consideration, he has addressed himself with a supreme skill thoroughly consistent with honesty. If we want an example of the genius of Woodrow Wilson in government, we need look no farther than his selection of Elihu Root to head the mission to Russia. And Root's genius is resplendent in his dealing with a revolution and conciliating it, when he came before it heralded as a reactionary. He measures up fully with any man in Europe with whom he may be compared.

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#### Too Previous Mentions

SOMEBODY has already nominated Gen. Pershing for President in 1920—on the Republican ticket, I suppose. Someone else has nominated Mr. Herbert Hoover. There has been "mention" of Gen. G. W. Goethals. Such political speculations are imbecilic, but otherwise harmless. Sensible people know that war is a greater smasher than maker of reputations. Many men are tried and cast aside. No great genius has been developed in Europe's war in three years. Many men of promise have failed to perform. It may be that the men upon whom we now pin our highest hopes will be the men whom six months from now we shall be howling down. No man worth mentioning for president will pay any attention to the mention. He has another job demanding all his mind and heart and soul.

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#### Patriots All

HALF of the two billion dollar loan is said to have been taken by people of moderate means. They knew there were investments paying more, but they took the loan as a bit of patriotism. How about the rich? Did they rush into the market to unload taxable securities in order to buy untaxed Liberty bonds? If they did, the market did not show it. Rich folks are capable of patriotism, too. The government has discovered the people are ready to go the limit in the war and especially for a soon-to-be-over war. Future loans will be easy to raise, with a little better interest, even if future bonds shall be taxed.

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#### Cost Plus Profit

A GOOD deal of government work has been let on cost plus profit. Already it has been discovered that contractors have gone at the work regardless of cost. They can hide a good deal of profit in cost, if they are not watched. The government has already begun to put limitation upon both cost and profit—particularly in the building of the sixteen cantonments. The contractors generally are going to have a hard time getting away with graft, if they try it, with so many business men who formerly played the game for their own hands, now on the job for the government. Those reformed business men on the different boards are going to be hard to fool. Their business just now is to prevent the other fellows from putting over the things the board men so often achieved in the past. Set a business man to catch a business man—what? Well,—if you don't believe that this is sound pragmatic philosophy, just read Thorstein

Veblen's "Theory of Business Enterprise." Business has been straightened up considerably in the past ten years, but all the offending Adam has not been whipped out of it yet.

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#### Fixed Prices for Everything

If the government is going to fix prices on steel for ships, why should it not fix prices on steel for railroad cars and locomotives? Cars and locomotives are needed as much almost as ships. And if the price for steel be fixed, why not the price of lumber and other things needed in government and in private business? There is no escape from price-fixing in an incalculably wide range of work. This may not be Jeffersonian democracy, but it is the inevitable compulsion of the emergency. No theory should stand in the way of fixed prices for coal for next winter.

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THE Red Cross will give the Iron Cross and the Victoria Cross and the *Croix de Guerre* and all the other military crosses the double cross.

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#### Insuring Our Seamen

OUR officers and seamen are to be insured, for no more than \$5,000 and no less than \$1,000. This is mandatory in the case of merchant ships sailing from this country June 26th and from foreign ports on and after July 10th, through the war zone. It is permissive elsewhere. The men are to be insured with the war risk board or with insurance companies on terms satisfactory to the secretary of the treasury. For this work there shall be employed the same machinery that is used in the insurance of hulls and cargoes. Our officers and seamen are to be allowed compensation for detention when held by the enemy. This is wisdom. But if we insure officers and seamen, why can we not insure workers in all lines of service, not only in war but during peace?

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#### Our Own Real-politik

WE are making earnest representations to Mexico in the matter of the heavy taxes she is putting on oil. We are trying to force Mexico to give us oil on terms that are more ours than hers. This is all right. But it is odious and infamous when Japan puts pressure upon or makes earnest representations to China. There is a Monroe Doctrine for America and a Monroe Doctrine for Asia, but one is evil and the other is good. It's just as well to keep cool these war times. There's a heap of *real-politik* in all the idealism that is being talked everywhere. And because of that fact the demand goes up for some exact definition of peace terms by all the allies, as well as by Germany. There is nothing very assuring in Great Britain's viewing Japan's purposes in the Far East "from a slightly different angle" than ours. There may be all kinds of slightly different angles in the situation immediately precedent to the great peace treaty, angles, for example, that will take in such a scheme as a tariff combination against the central empires. A slightly different angle may spread out from the earth until its base is wide enough to cover the distance between here and the star alpha centauri. We don't want a peace of slightly different angles, but one strictly on the square. The entente has never repudiated the reported pact for a post-bellum trade war against the Germanic allies. And such a pact is not a league of peace, but a league of war. President Wilson is not for that. Does our joining the entente in the war commit us to any such programme? This is not the inquiry of friends of Germany, but of friends of the United States and peace. We await the revision of the tariff pact among the entente, promised by France and England to the new Russian government. Our earnest representations to Mexico suggest that it is about time for a precipitation of some solids out of the idealistic afflatus

now showered upon us. Are we committed, let us say, to all that Italy wants in the way of absolute control of the Adriatic? That may be a lot of crazy fellows who are running new Russia, but they played a trump card when they demanded a look at all the treaties of the entente powers. Wouldn't we Americans like to see them too? No world could possibly be as virtuous as all the world at war now professes itself to be. Of course, Germany must first be beaten; but that must not make us forget what we are beating her for or lead us into a mix-up of ourselves with purposes quite other than those our president has proclaimed.

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#### The Strangle Hold

THE President is to have discretionary power of control of exports. It is a vast power. One way in which it will be used will be to keep down exports to Holland and the Scandinavian countries to make sure that they shall decreasingly provision and otherwise supply Germany. Those countries will be pinched, for if they cannot send supplies to Germany, they will receive nothing from her. The war is going to be harder on those little neutrals, as a result of our embargo, for that's what control of exports means. The starvation noose is to be drawn tighter around Germany and our control of exports is going to save a lot of trouble for the British blockading fleet. Starvation is legitimate warfare. Bombing school-houses full of children is not.

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#### Give the Women Votes

TIME, don't you think, to quit ragging those Washington suffragists who are picketing the White House? Time to give women the vote all over this country. They have it in England. They have it in Russia. They are to get it in Italy. The women of this country are showing their value in war, as the women have shown it in all other countries. They should get the privilege of voting even as they have accepted the duty of service. And if we are fighting for democracy, what is more democratic than the admission of women to full citizenship? The war should yield its first American victory to American women. Congress should act to that end at once. The states will follow in due time.

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#### More City Bonds

ON the principle that under our present system the piling up of taxation on business must inevitably reach a stage at which business can bear no more without collapse under the burden, and that then everybody will see the necessity of shifting the burden to privilege that gives nothing but tends to get all the benefits of improvements, I am in favor of the proposed \$18,840,000 bond issue by the city of St. Louis. The improvements for which the bonds are to be issued are needed. The benefits of those improvements will accrue chiefly to the land speculators. The producers will pay. The parasites will profit. I'm in favor of the producers learning what the system will do to them finally. To be sure, they may balk in St. Louis, when they think of the recently increased national, state and city taxes, but the city administration evidently thinks they won't. If they don't there's hope that the incidence of a multiplicity of taxes will open their eyes to the reason and necessity for recourse to the single tax upon land values as the only means of escape from bankruptcy. Bring along the bond issues. Let's have one every week or so.

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#### Organizing Transportation

THE way to relieve the railroads is to use the rivers for transportation in this crisis. The railroads will have to be connected with the river wharves and landings. River carriers and rail carriers will have to work together, exchanging traffic, using joint bills of lading, etc. The Railroad War Board is



willing. What is now needed is to promote building of boat and barge lines on the rivers and wharves and elevators, with modern loading and unloading equipment by all the cities. This will take some time. Meanwhile the railroads are to load cars heavier, using all the space. Demurrage charges are to be increased in order to force quick unloading. Idle cars are not to be left on sidings waiting for loads. Repair work is to be speeded up in the shops. Coal and iron will be made preferred commodities, and so will other things that the government may need quickly. In the matter of coal there will be more direct consignments to ultimate purchasers. If necessary, all work that may keep open top cars from the meeting of the special demands of government will be suspended. Duplicated train services will be cut out. The laws against preferring one shipper over another will be in abeyance. Certain shipments shall have priority over others. As the new regulations come out from Washington headquarters, old railroad hands are bewildered but surprised in many instances that the railroads didn't think of them before. Competition between roads caused expenditure that had no justification but that the other fellow did it. Unified control, even so far as it has gone, shows most gratifying results. It is calculated that before very long the old equipment under the newly-regulated use will give the equivalent of more use than had been hitherto deemed possible. As this new organization of the railway business proceeds, the traffic increases in such proportion as to leave the improved methods still behind. Therefore the rails will be linked up with the rivers wherever practicable. The congress will grant aid in barge and wharf and elevator building. President Fairfax Harrison of the Railroad War Board has assured the coöperation of the railroads and this will hasten the passage of the necessary river and harbor legislation by congress. All this work once begun, we may be sure will not be dropped after the war. The railroads operated under the authority of the President will be welded into one system and joined to the river carriers, and then, after the war, if they don't behave, they will be in splendid shape to be taken over by the government.



#### Taking Care of the Fighters

AFTER this war the soldier is not going home to experience governmental neglect. That Germany will take care of her veteran survivors we may be sure. Australia is to loan \$110,000,000 to her returned men. The limit of the loan to any soldier will be \$2,500. He will be assisted to secure a piece of land. The government will provide artificial limbs for maimed men. Special workshops will be provided for men who have lost their eyes or their hands. Provision will be made for employment between the time of their discharge and the finding of such jobs as they can best fill. Great Britain is getting ready to put the returned soldier on the land and to put him in the way of making a living. He will be taken care of under a broadly-conceived housing scheme. Even now the British soldier is made an allowance for his family from whom he is separated. It is only \$2.25 per week for wife or mother, \$1.25 for the first, 84 cents for the second, and 50 cents for each additional child. Canada gives her soldiers \$20 a month separation allowance, regardless of the size of the family. Now the matter of such allowance is being taken up in this country. The Chamber of Commerce of the United States has brought the matter to the attention of the Council of National Defense. This cannot be left to the charity of individual citizens, as it was in the case of the recent expedition to Mexico. The government has not done anything yet, but surely this wealthy nation is not going to let the dependents of its soldiers suffer at home while the breadwinners are away at the war. Doubtless the selective draft will be conducted with a view to minimizing the number of dependents to be taken care of, but no soldier's family should be left to suffer. The

country should look after all of them, especially in the time of appallingly high prices. Great Britain found the first separation allowances too low and is now about to raise them. The money is distributed through the Pension Office. Our pension department could take over this necessary work, without much trouble or added expense. One thing is sure: we shall have better fighters if every fighter knows that the folks at home are taken care of. And the dictate of justice and gratitude is that our soldiers who return from the war should be put in the way of securing self-supporting occupations.



### Natural Money

#### HOW TO ABOLISH MONEY AND RENT

By John Raymond Cummings

I ASSUME that all natural laws are harmonious; that the economic law is resourceful enough to accomplish what the ethical law demands. I therefore start with this ethico-economic axiom, which I believe all morally normal men will admit:

*When the people who perform useful service (labor) get all the useful things produced, each in proportion to his contribution of useful service, and all have unrestricted opportunity to labor, we shall have economic justice.*

This is equivalent to saying that all wealth should be distributed as wages, for useful service is labor.

It is generally said by economists that all wealth is distributed to the three factors of production, Land, Labor and Capital, respectively as Rent, Wages and Interest. This is true in present conditions, but the whole system of economic philosophy as now taught, including Single Tax, is an inversion. Wages are not low because rents are high, nor even because rent and interest take so much. Interest persists and rent is abnormally high because wages are low, or, to speak more exactly, we have the phenomena of low wages on the one hand, and interest and abnormally high rent on the other, as the complementary and inseparable effects of a cause lying back of these phenomena. That cause is competition for employment.

We need invoke only one economic law in order to finish the science of political economy, namely, the law of value, commonly called the law of supply and demand, which is to the economic world what gravity is to the solar system—the law that preserves its balance. It may be stated thus:

*When the supply of a thing is normal and the demand for it is normal, its value will be normal, for normal value is the resultant of normal demand acting upon normal supply.*

For our special purpose we need a corollary of this law, as follows:

*When anything commonly sells in the open market for less than it ought to command in exchange it is because there is more competition among sellers to sell it than among buyers to buy it; because supply of it and demand for it are not in normal relation.*

This is as true of labor as it is of labor products, and wages (the value of labor) are low solely and only because laborers are forced to compete for employment. They are forced to compete because the largest single field of labor normal to organized society is practically closed, namely, the field of public work; that is, the production of public wealth in the form of highways and other public utilities.

When the common-labor wage is normal all wages will be normal, for every skilled laborer finds his own wage ratio to the basic, common-labor wage. To make all wages normal, therefore, we need only to make the basic wage normal by ending competition among common laborers. In order to do this we must find the typical common laborer and deal with him efficiently and comprehensively. Where is he?

He is "The Man With a Hoe," the farm laborer. Because of the seasonal character of farming, a large

proportion of the "hired men" on the farms are in enforced idleness practically one-third of the year. This is why the ever-increasing procession of young men and women steadily moves on from the green fields to the already overcrowded cities, forcing wages down and rents up. They are seeking continuous employment, and we may cry "back to the land" till doomsday—they will not go back even to free land—and four months of idleness. Full-time employment will raise the basic wage fifty per cent, even at the present wage rate, and absence of competition will be as great a factor, thus doubling the present basic wage. We who complain that men are in enforced idleness are annually twitted by reactionaries with such sneers as this: "Enforced idleness! Why, they want ten thousand laborers right now in every state west of the Ohio river, and can't get them." This is true, and the real answer has never been given.

*Farmers are short of help in the growing and harvesting season because farmhands are short of employment in the winter third of the year.*

Full-time employment without competition will be guaranteed to all rural laborers if the general government will do what it ought to do aside from any consideration of the effect on wages. Business is periodically paralyzed by a so-called surplus of private production, that cannot be sold, and there is always a woeful shortage of public wealth in the form of highways and other public utilities that do not have to be sold. The state of unbalance will be cured by the following simple provision by the general government:

*From and after the passage of this act, public work in the building of highways and other public utilities shall be open in every rural neighborhood to all the common labor that offers, all labor and material to be paid for in legal tender service certificates, the unit of which shall be a day of common labor. Said certificates shall be the only lawful money of the realm after ..... years from the taking effect of this act.*

By the automatic working of the system a perfect balance will be preserved between private and public wealth and we shall have economic justice. Its automatic working is as follows:

Assume that more than the normal proportion of labor had been in public work for a considerable time—that would mean that less than the normal proportion had been in private employment. Commodity prices would therefore be abnormally high because of relative scarcity, and private employers would offer somewhat more than the public wage, thus drawing labor from public employment, restricting money issue, increasing private production, thereby lowering commodity prices, and so restoring the balance. On the other hand, if more than the normal proportion of labor had been in private employment the prices of commodities would be abnormally low because of relative abundance. Private employers would then release some of their employees, who would go into public work. Thus private production would be restricted, money issue would be increased and the balance again restored.

However, there would be no noticeable shifting from private to public employment and back, except of those whose private employment is seasonal. The balance would be preserved with as little disturbance as the water level is preserved in two connected reservoirs.

Instantly this law goes into effect, wages will rise and will rapidly advance toward the full product, but as the money wage will never change because the money unit is a time unit of labor, real wages (what the money wage will buy) will increase by the money unit's absorption of purchasing power. As certificates of all dates will be interchangeable, and as wages will be an increasing proportion of an ever-increasing product until they are the full product, and will then increase by as much as the productiveness of labor increases, evidently a day's wages saved will always buy the greater product of a day of labor applied at the later date, thus giving "service for service" to money savers (social lenders, who produce surplus



wealth and exchange it for social credit). It gives them "service for service" without lending at interest; gives them the increase lenders are entitled to without the necessity of "buying a debt." If the increase in productiveness is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent a year, a money unit will buy 56 per cent more at the end of thirty years than when it was earned, for the increase is compound, the product for each year being reckoned on that of the year preceding.

*This money will therefore be the favorite agency of credit saving for age for the mass of the people, and its volume will be whatever is needed for the purpose.*

Long-time credits can now be made only in the form of land value directly or indirectly; that is, in land ownership or in loans secured by land value in the form of mortgages, stocks or bonds. All long-time credit savings therefore inflate land values, and but for such guaranty of these savings for age the individual surpluses they represent would not be abundantly produced. Stated in other form, all long-time credits (the value representative of advance production) must be guaranteed by social value. Social value can appear only in two forms, (1) privilege value, yielding rent or interest, and (2) public wealth value. When social value is available for the conservation of individual surplus credits only in the forms of privilege value, rent and interest must accrue to the individual in order to give "service for service," but when social value is free to appear as public wealth represented by money that absorbs the increase in the productiveness of labor, thus giving "service for service" without interest, interest will disappear and individual surplus credits will take the form of public wealth, which aids labor, instead of being expressed as privilege value yielding interest and rent, which are burdens upon labor.

The system will establish a uniform margin in every rural community at least 100 per cent higher than the present margin and will thereby reduce rents to a relatively nominal sum.

It will supply the entire revenue for the general government without taxation, thus leaving what remains of rent as a fund for the exclusive use of the community.

In addition to this, it will remove the chief obstacle to sane taxation—*expropriation*. Just in proportion as economic interest disappears, and because of its disappearance, economic rent may be taken without destroying the selling value of land, thus avoiding the hardship and injustice to aged small land owners and owners of modest savings secured upon land value, who are too old to benefit by increased wages. This seeming economic miracle is no miracle at all, but a very simple and easily understood truth.

Let all taxes be put upon land and fixed improvements, and let the land and improvements be valued by any proper system, preferably by owners, the valuation to be a perpetual option price at which anyone may purchase through the recorder's office by paying the valuation to the owner and engaging to pay an annual premium above taxes into the public treasury. Provided, however, that owners who are not users may always retain ownership by meeting the bid, with a small preference, say five per cent, in their favor, and users may retain ownership by meeting the bid, with a large preference, say 25 per cent, in their favor. Homes may be given a still larger preference or be exempt from forced sale while so used by owners.

Assume a site valued at \$10,000 because it yields \$500 a year of what we call net income; that the income is constant and that interest is falling one per cent in two years. We may write the history of this site as follows:

Year	Income	Int. Rate	Sale Value	Prem. Bid
1920	\$500	5%	\$10,000	None
1922	"	4	"	\$100
1924	"	3	"	200
1926	"	2	"	300
1928	"	1	"	400?

I put a question mark after the premium for 1928 because, when the commercial rate for loans is only

one per cent, it is probably all for the labor involved and for the risk carried, which payment is not economic interest. There is a similar factor in what we call rent. It is wages of management, payment for risk of loss by vacancy or failure of tenant to pay, and for the final trouble and uncertainty of realizing the valuation by re-sale. This factor cannot be determined by estimate, but the market knows, and this is absolutely certain: When it is no longer easy to realize the valuation by re-sale, premiums will no longer be bid on that site unless by mistake, and as long as there is an unearned value, premiums will be bid.

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## Prussian Efficiency

By George D. Herron

[This is Chapter IX of "The Menace of Peace," published this week by Mitchell Kennerley, New York. The book is a flaming lyric of anti-Prussianism, abounding in purple passages. The author thinks a peace otherwise than by German defeat would be the abomination of desolation and that those who hope for a draw in the war are the tools conscious or unconscious of a loathsome perfection of forgery, falsehood and intrigue for peace like unto that which brought on the war. A German peace would be a betrayal of mankind, the end of democracy and civilization. It is plotted by the armament makers and—the Vatican. It means the restored temporal power of the papacy. The Catholic church and the Jesuit order are working for Germany. Benedict, the pope, has sold out Christendom to hold his job. Catholicism is the ally of autocracy, feudalism and international financial monopoly—"these three, like Pilate and Herod and Caiaphas, have become friends in the day of the crucifixion of humanity—have become friends in the hope that they may prevent humanity from rising again." This has a touch of the fantastic in it, but the book as a whole is a splendid and brief specimen of the lost art of rhythmic eloquence of denunciation.]

George D. Herron is perhaps not quite forgot. In 1891 his marriage to a wealthy protegee after divorce from his wife had this whole country excited. He was a fervent socialist. He had been pastor of congregational churches in Lake City, Minn., and Burlington, Ia., and later "professor of applied Christianity" in Iowa College. He resigned because the college trustees did not approve his teachings. He dropped Christian phraseology from his teachings and took to the lecture platform. His utterances disturbed those "dark ages" and when his divorce and remarriage came into the news he was vituperated as ferociously as was later the versatile affinitarian, Ferdinand Pinney Earle. Prof. Herron went to live in Italy, where his wife died early in 1914. He has never renounced Socialism and this withering blast against pacifism is therefore the more surprising. "The Menace of Peace" will exhilarate you whether you are with the author or against him. It's a big dollar's worth of damnable delightfulness. It lives up to the inspiration of its paradoxical title.]

THE German peril cannot be disproved by the superior efficiency of German organization.

Let us grant the superiority at once. The German collectivity is established and sustained by a skill and a responsibility that no other nation approaches. No other collectivity has developed so shrewd a social foresight; such perfection of industrial technique; such application of scientific inquiry to productive processes, to tangible facts and forces. No other collectivity so grasps and directs its materials; so removes the element of chance; so provides for the material security and physical ease of its members. In all that pertains to the objective well-being of labor, to the economic and cultural care of motherhood and childhood, to provision against sickness and old age, Germany leads the world. She also leads it in matters of technical education, and in the training of each man as a unit of the national whole. Her autocratic will and method have accomplished, on behalf of the average man, that social shelter and assurance, that protection from harm and hunger, which the democratic nations have so stubbornly and ignorantly refused. We must not deny—we must admit to our infinite shame—that German organization is

proficient and providential beyond anything that English or French or American organization has considered or attempted. In fact, it is only in Germany that social organization may be said to exist at all. The collectivities of France and England are unorganized; and America is not a collectivity but a heterogeneous mass, a social and industrial anarchy.

Yet having ungrudgingly confessed the superiority of the German social arrangements, having rehearsed their wide and common material beneficence, it remains for us to inquire as to their effect upon the individual, and upon Germany's conception of her place among the nations. It is good to be well housed and well fed; good to be protected in the performance of one's labor; good to be provided for in sickness and old age; good to be fitted into one's place in a perfected economic machine. But if these values are obtained at the expense of infinitely greater values; if they are made the end instead of the means of well-being; if they derive from such a source, if they proceed upon such a principle, as to make of the average man a mere automaton; if they are destructive instead of creative of personality; then the best organization the autocratic principle can achieve is but a deathful illusion. It is an efficiency fraught with spiritual atrophy, dissipating instead of conserving the final values. For objective order and coherency are not ends in themselves; nor in themselves do they constitute the well-being of either society or the individual. Their purpose is to afford opportunity for well-being, but they are not well-being itself.

Furthermore, it is not possible that autocratic might may conceive or construct social right; not possible for it to provide a true reason for social being. Nor may it set before the collectivity an uplifting social goal. Indeed, the most perfect organization autocracy may provide inevitably must result in social paralysis, in spiritual death. The highest material efficiency might be so conceived and made effectual as to prove itself the product and producer of a fatal spiritual inefficiency.

And precisely this has happened in Germany. The very docility of the people under the dominion of the Prussian idea and system, their childish belief in the lies laid upon them by their masters, are proof enough of the spiritual fatuity of German material and technical co-ordination. The wise farmer would relatively do for his cattle, the wise slave-holder would relatively do for his slaves, the things so well done by the Prussian state for the Prussian people. But the cattle would be no less cattle for being well-fed and well-herded; the slave would be rendered no less a slave by the self-interested care of his owner; and the Prussian is no less an automaton because the state so provides for his life as to make him an efficient instrument of war and production.

The end of German social organization is not human well-being, but material and military conquest. It is not motivated in the development of personality, but in the depersonalization of man, making him a perfected mechanic means to a devouring mechanic end, and resulting in the falsification of both faith and action. Its end is the materialization of the spiritual, and not the spiritualization of the material. Masquerading as an approach to socialism, it is the precise enemy and opposite of the socialism that is essential or real. In fine, the social efficiency of the German state, fundamentally effecting the unmaking of man, is but an inward manifestation of the idea whose outward manifestation is the lawless quest for world-dominion. It is merely the preliminary of the Prussian will to power—the preparatory process of the might that regards itself as superior to right, and as divinely appointed to destroy the old world and to create a new world in its own monstrous image.

Thus the Prussian social theory is as fatuous as the Prussian doctrine of dominion. No strongest nor securest state, nor any super-powers, may do for



the peoples the things that they must fraternally and freely do for themselves; and every semblance of common well-being procured from without or from above is but the ultimate undoing of both the single man and the social people. If democracy cannot acquire the requisite technique for its own effectuation in labor and life; if freedom and order are not able to march together; if fraternity cannot a thousandfold fulfill the efficiencies inhering in the ablest autocracy; if universal and individual well-being can be procured only of men commonly consenting to be sheep in times of peace and hyenas in times of war, instead of men resolving to be the unhindered and adventuring sons of God; then the human game is not worth the candle. Assured physical well-being is not worth the Prussian spiritual price.

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## Immigration after the War

By Frederic C. Howe

U. S. Commissioner of Immigration.

THERE is a very widespread interest all over the country about what is going to happen to immigration after the war. Will the countries of Europe prevent their able-bodied men from leaving, or will the poverty, burden of taxation and losses which everyone has suffered bring about an unprecedented immigration to this country? There is the greatest diversity of opinion upon this subject. Some people expect a very heavy immigration; while others think that the action of European countries, as well as the shortage of men in Europe, will keep people at home. In my opinion, all of the warring countries will do everything they can to keep their able-bodied men at home. They will need them for reconstruction purposes. Certainly this would be true of England, Germany and France. Germany is the most highly socialized state in Europe. The state owns the railways; industry has been socialized; and the nation is in a position to mobilize its resources for peace much as she mobilized them for war. Any material emigration from Germany is doubtful. The same is true of France. There has never been much emigration out of France for the reason that the French people are home-owning peasants. More people own their own farms in France than in any other country in Europe. In addition, France has been socialized almost as completely as has Germany. Not only have the railways been taken over, but the mines, industry and trade of all kinds. The war has revolutionized the internal life of France as completely as it has the life of Germany, and has converted France into a semi-socialistic state. Something of the same sort has happened in England, for the railways have been taken over, as have many industries. In Russia and Austria-Hungary necessity has forced similar activities upon these countries, and they, too, will be in a better position than ever before so far as national political organization is concerned, to take care of their people. In addition, millions of men have been killed or incapacitated, and there is likely to be a shortage in the labor market which may materially increase wages; and this of itself is sufficient to keep the workers at home, for immigration to this country is always determined by economic conditions. Men come here because they get better wages than they do at home or because of the general improvement in their social and economic well-being.

While all this is true, unless the governments forbid it, there will almost certainly be a heavy emigration out of Central Europe, especially from Poland, Hungary, Bohemia and the Balkan states. This part of Europe has suffered most from the war. At least 10,000,000 people have been driven from their homes. Millions of these people have friends and relatives in the United States, and these millions will look longingly toward a war-free country. And they will be helped to come to America by friends already here. Many women may be expected to come, as well as many men who have been in the

trenches and who have been made restless by their three years of freedom from the kind of toil with which they have been familiar.

One thing is certain,—there is going to be a big competition for men all over the world. Canada has lost heavily, and Canada will try to draw people from the United States, as well as from England. Mexico will probably be at peace; and while Mexico is not inviting immigration, she is planning to break up the big monopolistic land holdings in that country and provide free land for settlers. The same is true of Australia. Instead of a surplus of labor, there may be a quite universal shortage, and those countries that make conditions most attractive for labor are going to secure immigrants and keep their own population. It should not be surprising if hundreds of thousands of able-bodied foreigners leave the United States for Europe. In fact, the steamship companies report that from 500,000 to 1,000,000 persons are planning a return to Europe after the war to see their friends, to visit the desolated places, but particularly in the expectation of being able to acquire land cheaply. This is particularly true of the Poles, of whom hundreds of thousands expect to return to a free Poland and buy a little home. It may be that the action of Europe in preventing emigration, the curiosity and desire of foreigners already in this country to go back home, but most of all the belief on the part of many that they can acquire a piece of land in Europe, will convert America from a nation of immigrants into a nation of emigrants. Of course this is speculative, but unless our cities and states work out plans for the more humane treatment of the working classes in this country, such an exodus is quite likely. Especially is this true as to our land policy. Immigrants want to own their own farms, but wherever they turn they find so many difficulties in the way that they remain in the cities. Land is held at speculative prices. Farmers have difficulty in marketing their products. As soon as a considerable number settle in a community the price of land goes up. As against this, western Canada is planning to take taxes off houses, improvements and farm products, and in addition to put a heavy tax upon idle land, with the aim of breaking up land speculation, especially the holding of land out of use. Europe, too, is turning to the land tax for the same purpose. For Europe is still largely divided into great feudal holdings owned by the aristocratic class. Should Europe adopt a comprehensive land policy on the one hand, and Canada on the other, it is quite possible that the United States will be confronted with a permanent shortage of labor, and that immigrants will leave this country—as many have already done—for Canada; and not only for the latter country, but for Europe as well.

From *The Public* (New York).

♦♦♦♦

## The Old Bookman

CONFESSIONS OF LEARNED IGNORANCE.

By Horace Flack

XV. JONAH AND THE DEADLINE.

"**P**ATHEMATA, mathemata." In other words, all educated men must sweat for it and all professional prophets must suffer professionally. I would not be a prophet if I could. And I am not educated—not even half-educated yet. In five hundred years I may know as much as Shakespeare; in one thousand, as much as Homer, and in two thousand as much as the author of the Book of Jonah. All I know now is that, in the vast extent of my ignorance, it is time for me to begin to learn more about the Book of Jonah. My edition of the Book is Wright's, 1857, in four Semitic versions from ancient manuscript translations, to which I have added, by pasting, the original text, edited by J. Simon, Magdeburg, 1752, and, in pencil, Saint Jerome's Latin version of the Psalm of Jonah from the Vulgate. When I know that entire Psalm by heart in the original and in translations by men who

had ears to hear the meaning of the highest art in poetry, I may ask permission to make a remark on the extent of the insolent presumption of our Modern Superiority, which is always most insolent when we are most ignorant of what we are most assured. But as, at present, I know very little of what I am talking about when I begin to talk about the Book of Jonah, I will only say of the first three verses of Jonah's Psalm, which are all I know by heart at present, that, as far as I know, no lyric poem written since the year 400, A. D., surpasses it in art, in melody, in symmetry, in the fitness of sublime sound, expressing sublime sense.

This, however, may concern only those who are interested in knowing the meaning and purpose of the highest art. What concerns all of us more nearly is the probability that, among later authors we do not treat with contempt, only Plutarch and Shakespeare had begun to suspect what Jonah knew of the meaning of crossing a deadline.

I suppose that on being forced back to meet his responsibilities after an education as a prophet which convinced him that he was not fit for the profession, Jonah had hardly space enough on his body left for another scar from a stonebruise, when he took his place in the market-place at Nineveh to announce that a crisis was about to develop the logic of events. And as far as I can judge from the context, I suppose he asked no quarter. Not a word of his sermon is reported, but when Plutarch writes of the Delay of the Divinity, it probably defines the meaning of a deadline more accurately than has been done by anyone since Jonah did it in his unreported address to the magnates of Nineveh. The theory of Plutarch is that though the greatest prosperity, ensuing after the greatest crimes, may seem to make these crimes the highest political virtues, yet after the deadline is once crossed, the meaning of the Delay of the Divinity is illustrated by the kindness shown in prison to condemned criminals who, instead of being hurried, hungry and thirsting, to the gallows, are given the choicest foods and best wines for their last meals before sentence is executed upon them. I suppose that if Jonah threw back his mantle to show the scars from the last time he was stoned in Nineveh or elsewhere, he must have told the assembled magnates to get their stones ready, for he had come to tell them—not of their crimes, which they already knew of, but simply that with one step more, they would get what they knew they deserved. It is made very clear that he did not really wish to stop them. As a professional prophet, he wished to see justice done—once, if only once—before he died. And his disappointment was bitter when justice was once more cheated by the use of sackcloth, which was probably cheap in Nineveh, and ashes, which were certainly cheaper. When he said to the Lord: "I do well to be angry," every stone-bruise he had accumulated in his career as a prophet must have been aching from the time his gourd withered until he was finally convinced that sentence against Nineveh was once more suspended and justice postponed so long that, after being driven out of perhaps a hundred towns and cities, he might die without being vindicated a single time.

As in "Macbeth," Shakespeare begins where Jonah ends, there is no longer salvation in sackcloth and ashes. The deadline has been crossed, and when the knocking at the gate begins, the logic of events is operating and nothing can prevent justice. It is never pleasant to think of the meaning of justice in political history. It is much more comfortable to laugh at "Jonah and the whale," or to write essays in higher criticism, intended to prove that Jonah's gourd was not a gourd at all but a castor bean or *Ricinus Asiaticus*. What I really intended to say, however, in beginning this confession, is that only those who have accumulated a sufficient number of stone-bruises after telling the truth, are fit to begin to criticize the Book of Jonah. I am not. As a Ninevite, of those who do not yet know their right hand from their left in judging the logic of events, I can only understand enough of it to know that it is one of the most astonishing books in existence.



## Letters From the People

### Riley Autograph Prices

703 Pontiac Bldg., St. Louis, Mo.  
June 22, 1917.

Editor of *Reedy's Mirror*:

Robertus Love's statement regarding the market prices for Riley letters and literary manuscripts is misleading. The low price he mentions must have been in an exceptional case.

As the literary executor of James Newton Matthews, I found between seventy-five and one hundred letters from James Whitcomb Riley to Doctor Matthews, besides a large number of Riley's manuscript poems, some of which never have been published. Many of these letters and manuscripts have been sold at the Walpole Galleries, New York City, for benefit of Doctor Matthews' widow. I was certain they brought very good prices, but was unable to recall the exact figures, so I wrote to Mr. Turnbull, proprietor of the Galleries, for a few of the top prices, and received from him the following statement:

Old Swimmin' Hole (autographed copy), May 24, 1916 .....\$302

(The previous highest price was \$185, for a copy sold at Henkel's in Philadelphia the year before.)

Poetical letter on the birth of James Riley Matthews, 16 lines on an 8vo. sheet..... 105

"Little Wesley" and "The Legend Glorified" incorporated in a letter..... 155

Letter, 4 pp., 8vo., with "Sonnet to a Barefoot Boy"..... 60

Manuscript of "Rubaiyat of Doc Sifers" (not from Mrs. Matthews' collection, but from the E. Dwight Church collection, bought by Henry E. Huntington and sold at Anderson Galleries, March 29, 1916)..... 255

In a letter accompanying this statement, Mr. Turnbull said:

"In addition, I would like to say that the letters sold by us for Mrs. Matthews brought an average of nearly \$40 each—the highest average for any American author, living or dead, with the exception of Edgar Allen Poe. As we wrote Mrs. Matthews at the time, it was a great testimony to the affectionate regard in which Riley is held throughout the United States. We had bids from California to Georgia on these letters. The attendance at the sale included such men as Mr. Goodyear of the Goodyear Rubber Company, who came to New York specially to bid on these letters, and Mr. Harold Pierce of the New York Life Insurance Company, Philadelphia, who also came over particularly to examine the collection."

WALTER HURT,  
Editor of *The Paladin*.

### "Mrs. Chichester's Confession"

Ash Grove, Mo., June 20, 1917.

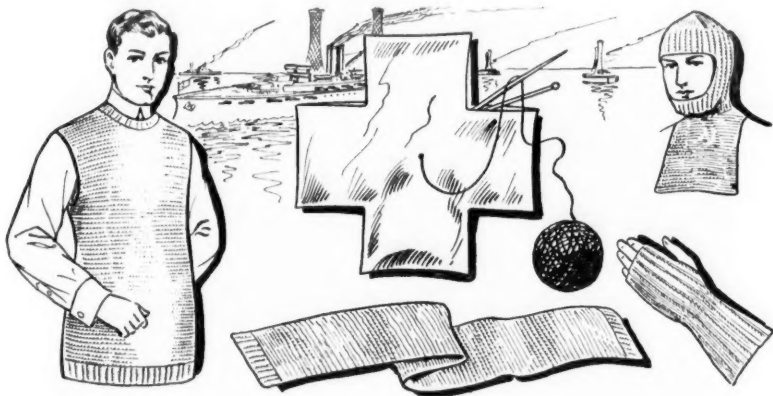
Editor of *Reedy's Mirror*:

That was a clever and amusing story—"Mrs. Chichester's Confession," by Harry B. Kennon—in a recent *MIRROR*, about how an American "middle class" woman became "class conscious." I failed to see the point the author wished to make, however, that an American who confesses to belonging to the middle

class is a snob. Why blink the facts? Since we have no titles here, we all know that American classes are divided by financial lines alone. Now it is obvious that some have little or no wealth, some have more, and some have most. To admit that another has more wealth than I, is not to acknowledge him my superior. "Middle-class" may mean something very different here from what it means in England. It may not have any of the connotations that were attached to the French word for it by the Revolutionists. But saying there are no classes in America doesn't make it true, and admitting that one belongs to the middle class doesn't admit inferiority.

No classes in America? Tell that to—a member of the I. W. W. Cheerfully, off-handedly, technically, he designates himself a "slave" and his employer a "master." Of course he means one day to change all that, else he could not look at it with such comparative complacency! But don't tell him there are no classes in America.

It is not surprising that the I. W. W.



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should be class conscious. Perhaps it is even less marvelous that the Four Hundred should be so. It is, one must admit, rather more surprising in the middle class, even where we have no titles or rank to make those above us truly blest. *Middleness* suggests mediocrity, middlemen, Middle West, mid-Victorian, and a number of things at which both common and uncommon people are disposed to throw slurs. According to the revolutionary definition, we are a middle-class nation. We are, with the exception of the "proletariat," simply bourgeois and petty bourgeois. The bourgeoisie is simply the class engaged in trade—the capitalist class.

To quote from the Communist Manifesto:

"The bourgeoisie, wherever it has got the upper hand, has put an end to all feudal, patriarchal, idyllic relations. It

has pitilessly torn asunder the motley feudal ties that bound man to his 'natural superiors' and has left remaining no other nexus between man and man, than naked self-interest, than callous cash payment. It has drowned the most heavenly ecstasies of religious fervor, of chivalrous enthusiasm, of philistine sentimentalism, in the icy water of egotistical calculation. It has resolved personal worth into exchange value, and in the place of numberless, indefeasible chartered freedoms, has set up that single unconscionable freedom—Free Trade. In one word, for exploitation veiled by religious and political illusions, it has substituted naked, shameless, direct, brutal exploitation.

"The bourgeoisie has stripped of its halo every occupation hitherto honored and looked up to with reverent awe. It has converted the physician, the lawyer, the priest, the poet, the man of science, into its paid wage-laborers.

"The bourgeoisie has torn away from the family its sentimental veil, and has



reduced the family relation to a mere money relation. . . . All that is solid melts into air, all that is holy is profaned."

Now over against Marx set Solomon—as is quite fitting—and see the middle class in a more complimentary light:

"Give me neither poverty nor riches . . . lest I be full and deny Thee, and say, Who is the Lord? or lest I be poor and steal, and take the name of my God in vain."

A Marxian, indeed, might say that much of the extravagant praise of "the great middle class" that has always been "handed out" by the Solomons and other upper-crusters—for Solomon never lived as he prayed to live, but dwelt on in a Queen-of-Sheba-astounding palace to the end of his days—is for the sole purpose of keeping the middlers content. See also, quoth the Marxian, much extravagant eulogy of the "dignity of labor." The Solomons would praise the great American middle class, as, one might say, the delectable filling of the great American Pie—might one also say, of the Washington Pie?—the thing for which the upper and the nether crusts were made.

I once heard a minister's wife in a middle west village, a woman whose husband received a salary of perhaps \$1,000 yearly, refer to the family of her white American washerwoman, as "that class of people." I am sure her point of view is not uncommon. Now where there is a class of people below, might there not also be a class above—or is the Pie "open-faced," of the custard variety? As for the aristocracy of culture or family, as in the famous Bostonian scheme of things, whereby "Cabots speak only to Lowells, and Lowells speak only to God," one would like to ask, Is not snobbery of family precisely the same thing here as where titles exist; and is snobbery of wealth so much worse than snobbery of culture, since superiority in the one usually implies superiority in the other—superior advantages?

In so far as one admits inferiority in admitting middleclassness, middleclassness is a state of mind. And, of course, we must reluctantly agree with a character in Mr. Kennon's story, that the war may have to go on a long time to bring democracy. In phraseology made familiar by friend Horace Traubel, "Before you can get people out of autocracy you will have to get autocracy out of people."

ELIZABETH WADDELL.

### The Value of a Tire Stock

37 Wall St., New York  
June 23, 1917

Editor of Reedy's Mirror:

One of your readers (Mr. Viereck) has called my attention to the enclosed clipping. Being a large holder of the stock mentioned therein, I wish to rectify the statement.

Your financial editor evidently is not aware of the fact that Kelly-Springfield Tire Company common stock has a par value of only \$25 per share, so that the current price of about \$50 really represents a price of about 200 per cent par value.

The net yield is not 30 per cent, but about 7½ per cent. The unfavorable

deduction which he makes on account of high yield is wrong. From what I know about the company—and I am very close to its management—the present rate of dividend can be maintained for many years to come.

Will you be kind enough to set this matter right as the information given to your inquirer is wrong in fact and misleading.

ALFRED RAU.

[The paragraph in "Marts and Money" department to which exception is taken inferred the value of the common stock of the company to be speculative, from the current price of 55, which denotes a net yield of almost 30 per cent. Further it was intimated that the rate could not be maintained for any length of time. The letter above is so definite in its statements as to deserve publication to offset the depressionistic opinion complained of.—Editor of REEDY'S MIRROR.]

♦♦♦

### Gusts and Disgusts

By Silas Orrin Howes

There has been a deal of ink spilled lately as to whether the short story is coming into the sere, the yellow leaf, one writer, in a recent *Dial*, tolling its death knell in piteous fashion. He says: "The short story is the blood kinsman of the quick lunch, the vaudeville, and the joy ride" and that "its unity is abnormally artificial and intense." How very sad! As a matter of fact the short story, when well done, represents the highest form of fictional art. The bastard short story—the cheap magazines teem with them like spoiled grain with weevils—does not at all enter into the discussion. The novel—even at high water mark—has saharas of padded dullness that will lull the insomniac to slumber. The short story is a pure joy as a created and artistic whole. It stands in the same relation to other fictional prose as does the lyric to other forms of poetry. It may, or it may not, as pleases the whim of the artist, contain intaglios of character portraiture. It may be redolent with humor, compact with philosophy, give out prismatic flashes of charming description. In fact the form has as many facets to please as a skillfully cut diamond.

A recent volume of the *genre* that is worthy of commendation is "The Echo of Voices," by Richard Curle, published by Alfred Knopf, New York. There are eight stories and each presents a study of a human failure. The title page bears a quotation from Conrad and the final study is strikingly sib to Conrad in content and atmosphere. That, too, in Conrad's best days before he fell under the palsying influence of Henry James, than which nothing worse could have befallen him.

"His Kingdom," staged in South Africa, is a really fine study of a good man gone wrong through crooking his elbow. In all these studies the author, without becoming a "sentimentalizer," shows genuine feeling and sympathy for his types. That is as it should be. The writer who coldly vivisects or spatters his victim with scorn, no matter how great his artistry, only repels.

"General Service" is the pathetic tale of a hapless servant girl who, by the logic of circumstances is forced to seek



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repose in the bed of the Thames. There are some readers who insistently seek a happy ending. Curle's book will not titillate their fancies and I leave them to the tenderer mercies of the Pollyanna cult.

Another writer, scarcely known this side the Atlantic, is Cunninghame Grahame whose collections of *contes* are prized by the discerning on both sides the Atlantic. We are a bit late in recognizing the resplendent virtues of Samuel Butler and W. H. Hudson. Some day a sapient publisher (there are such) will make us to know the colorful beauties of this British Socialist and delightful Tusitala.

♦♦♦

### Puzzled Ole

A new regulation in a certain coal mine required that each man mark with chalk the number of every car of coal mined. One man named Rudolph, having filled the eleventh car, marked it as 1 and, after pondering a while, let it go at that. Another miner, happening to notice what he thought was a mistake, called Rudolph's attention to the fact that he had marked the car No. 1 instead of No. 11. "Yes, I know," said Rudolph, "but I can't think which side the other wan goes on."

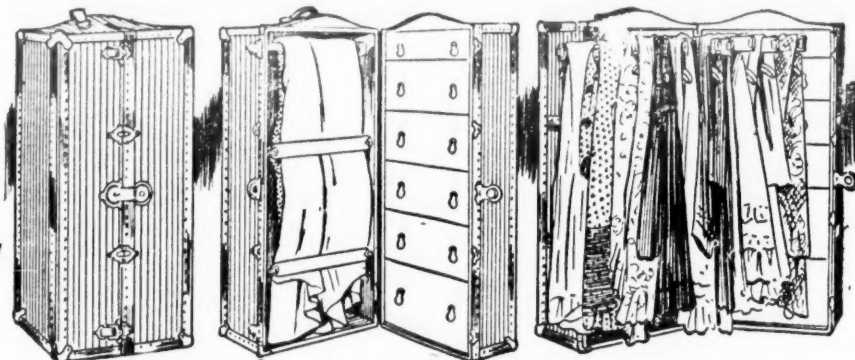
## Karl Bitter

By Percy Werner

I cannot resist the temptation to enter into the somewhat exclusive field of the book-reviewer, in order to call the attention of your elect to a little work, hot from the University of Chicago Press—"Karl Bitter: A Biography." I commenced the reading thereof with my interest aroused by an acquaintance with the subject (formed at the time of our Louisiana Purchase Exposition) and somewhat with his work. Before I laid the book down, I was stirred to the uttermost bounds of my democratic perimeter by the short story of the career of a twenty-two-year-old immigrant boy, arriving in this country in 1889, penniless, and without a knowledge of our language, and contributing, before his tragic death in 1915, with unexampled prodigality, to the art life of the new world in which he found himself. The story to my mind all unintentionally preaches most powerfully the democratic gospel that if through intelligent, associated action the people of a community will but create the proper environment, the individual living therein may safely be left, without restraint or coercion, to work out his own development. It seems



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safe to say that in no other country in the world, and in no other social and industrial environment, could Bitter's talents have come to their fruition as they did in this country, or could he himself have developed into the strong, self-reliant, idealistic interpreter of democratic institutions into which he evolved. It is true that the Columbian Exposition at Chicago in 1893, for the Court of Honor in which he elaborated the decorative programme, and the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo in 1901, of which he was Director in Chief of the sculptural scheme, and again the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, to which he was called as Director in Chief of Sculpture, and finally the Panama Exposition, whose officials called him into their council, furnished unusual occasions for the unfoldment of his talents. But his contributions in the fields of sculptural decorations for public buildings and private residences, for memorial statues,

for fountains, and for portrait busts, show the abundant opportunities that are open to a man of energy, talent and industry in this country. His three statues of Thomas Jefferson, standing in Cleveland, in our own Jefferson Memorial, and at the University of Virginia, respectively, those of Alexander Hamilton, of Carl Schurz, and of General Franz Sigel; his work on the Dewey Arch; his decoration of the Pennsylvania Railroad station in New York; his memorials to Dr. Angell of Ann Arbor, and to Dr. Pepper of the University of Pennsylvania; his Trinity Gates; his commissions from Mr. Rockefeller at Pocantico Hills, and from Mr. Vanderbilt at Biltmore, to refer only to a small fraction of his works, indicate the range of his employment and the stimulus which the man's thought-life received in his new home. Evidences are scattered throughout the little book of Bitter's keen

appreciation of the opportunities afforded him, and of his reactions to his new environment and, in turn, of the impetus which he imparted to his social environment, and to the new art of city planning and the development of the City Beautiful. One is overwhelmed at the thought of how abundantly this single young immigrant recruit repaid his adopted country in social service for the glorious opportunities offered him for self-development. The book shall prove a rich text for sermons on democracy, to make which safe our country is now at war. It is an attractive volume, embellished with forty-one full-page photographs, and purports to be issued under the auspices of The National Sculpture Society. The author of the work, Ferdinand Schevill, of the Department of History of the Chicago University, is to be complimented on the dignified and restrained treatment of his theme.

St. Louis, June 23rd, 1917.

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"Do you, Mr. Stacks, think that a rich man can go through the eye of a needle?" "I don't know. I will, however, admit that my lawyers have dragged me through some very small loopholes."—Puck.

## Over the Top

When the *Lusitania* was sunk Arthur Guy Empey, a young American living in Jersey City, thought it America's duty immediately to enter into war against Germany. As soon as he became convinced that America's "rulers" entertained a different idea, instead of trying to run the government he quietly slipped over to London and enlisted in the British army. His experiences as a British "Tommy" in the trenches on the western front are breezily related in "Over the Top" (Putnam's, New York), with now and then a bit of humorous exaggeration which every American will recognize for what it is. He didn't let anything get by him but death, and he almost grasped that. When his dearest ambition had been attained and he was in the first line trenches he admits that he heartily wished himself back in Jersey City. Of his first experience under shell fire he says, "From the waist up I was all enthusiasm but from there down everything was missing; I thought I should die of fright." Yet no sooner does he become inured to one terrifying danger than he cheerfully volunteers for a worse one. Empey observed everything—and faithfully recorded it for the enlightenment of the stay-at-homes—from the "made in England" stamp on the "tin" razor in his kit to the effect of the odor of a dug-up decomposing German; he describes with equal fidelity an army execution and the most approved method of cleansing a cooking pot. He's a "cheerful beggar" who frankly reveals the discomforts and agonies of trench warfare and at the same time manages to convey the impression that somehow there is compensation for them all. The work is further distinguished by the rare combination in war books of today of sincerity, humor and charity, with the result that both recruiting officers and pacifists will probably consider it legitimate propaganda. To the prohibitionists it is recommended for its frequent reference to the efficacy of rum rations! "Tommy's Dictionary of the Trenches," the appendix, elucidates American fashion the slang current among the soldiers.

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### Secret of Success

The man who had made a huge fortune was speaking a few words to a number of students at a business class. Of course the main theme of his address was himself. "All my success in life, all my tremendous financial prestige," he said proudly, "I owe to one thing alone—pluck, pluck, pluck!" He made an impressive pause here, but the effect was ruined by one student, who asked impressively: "Yes, sir; but how are we to find the right people to pluck?"

\*\*\*

Mother—Gladys, you stood on the porch quite a while with that young man last night.

Gladys—Why, mother, I only stood there for a second.

Mother—But I'm sure I heard the third and the fourth.—Catholic Telegraph.



## Aboriginal Folk Tales

Mention "Indian" to any American child and he will conjure in his mind a bloodthirsty savage, fierce, cruel, terrible. A very different phase of the noble red man is presented by Mabel Powers in "Stories the Iroquois tell their Children" (American Book Company, New York). These are stories that the Indians have told their children from generation to generation in the long winter months when they sat around their fires. She learned them from the Indians themselves, traveling from tribe to tribe, listening to the stories of one and retelling them to the next. In this way she soon learned all their legends and was called Yeh Sen Noh Wehs, "one who carries and tells the stories." They are mostly legends of animals and men in their relations to each other and to the Great Spirit—why the hermit thrush is so shy, why the woodpecker bores for his food, why the eagle defends Americans, are some of the subjects. The Indian is shown as possessing much the same traits of man as any other race, though he differs in being sensibly grateful for the bounties of nature, which the white man accepts as his due. In preparing these red men's stories for white men's children Miss Powers has preserved their simplicity. They are written in words of one and two syllables and are beautifully illustrated with numerous drawings and color plates. Any child will enjoy the book and at the same time will learn to observe and love nature.

♦♦♦

## The "Big Sisters"

By Alice Mary Kimball

From *The World's Work*, for July.

She is very young. She can't be more than eighteen. Her shabby suit has the earmarks of the country dressmaker. Her straw hat trimmed with brave cotton roses came from the millinery shop at "The Corners." Her prettiness is all country prettiness. Clear eyes and a tanned complexion suggest fresh air, forest-hung roads, and clover meadows.

An imitation-leather suitcase bulges queerly with her small possessions. She sits upright in the day coach and gazes about her with the eagerness of those to whom all things are new. Sometimes she dabs her eyes with the handkerchief she wept into a hard little ball when she told her mother good-bye. Sometimes she opens her tiny wrist-bag and glances nervously within to make sure she still has her ticket, and her small, desperately precious bit of money.

She is a little afraid. She has learned from warning relatives and the "movies" that the city is dangerous. But she is more afraid of Walnut Corners.

Perhaps you have flashed through Walnut Corners on a transcontinental train. Perhaps you have wondered what sort of dead-and-alive folk lived there.

Walnut Corners is one of those small settlements, dotting the country like spawn, which function as supply points for neighboring farm territory. There is Main street, sluggish, unpaved, littered; the "depot" and the dingy "Com-

mercial House;" a handful of country stores and neat dwellings; and, pervading everything, a monotonous, unadventurous spirit. Enterprising people always go away from Walnut Corners. The young men leave early for the cities or the far west. Only the aged, the listless, and the incompetent remain—and the women.

In the last few years a new spirit has come over Walnut Corners girls. It may be a bracing whiff of the woman movement from the big world outside. They are no longer content to make almost any sort of marriage, or to drag out the thin, colorless existence of a village spinster. They often shy at proffers of marriage even from prosperous farmers. The farmer, with his tractors, his modern barns, his new scientific methods, lives in the twentieth century, but his wife too often loses her health and bloom in a futile struggle with the sixteenth. She drudges in an old-fashioned farmhouse, cooks unaided for "hands," battles at the washtub, draws water from the well like Rebecca of old. The prospect of holding up the woman's end of this kind of farm partnership is no longer appealing to ambitious country girls; nor is the idea of economic dependence, nor of letting youth slip by without marriage. Almost as soon as they can think at all, thousands of small-town girls and farmer girls cast longing eyes toward the city.

The girl in the day coach is one of these. Walnut Corners offered only stifling loneliness to the vital, striving spirit of her youth. It had given her neither interesting work, inspiring companionship, nor a promise for the future. She had to break away.

She has never been to a large city. She is untrained and inexperienced. She has no work in prospect. All this does not disturb her, for she feels sure, even without gilt-edged recommendations, of earning at least \$6 every week; and that is a utopian wage for a girl at Walnut Corners. She pictures herself watching her favorite screen actors night after night, coming and going as she pleases, dressing smartly, getting acquainted with city people. She wonders if among her new friends she will find the "right man," and marry, and become the mistress of a little home with hot and cold water and a real bathroom. She is willing to work faithfully and hard in return for her enlarged opportunities. She takes it for granted that success must come to those who work faithfully and hard.

The girl from Walnut Corners brings to the city her untrained hands and mind, her young energy, her illusions and air castles. What does the city give back?

Miss Nettie Huff, a Kansas City business woman, sat one day thinking of the answer to that question. Within sight of her office were business concerns that employed 1,000 girls. She did not need O. Henry and the sociologists and the government's reports to make her understand the lack of adjustment between the untrained girl worker and her industrial environment. She knew by first-hand observation the resulting human misery and social wreckage.

The pathos of the young girls' valiant



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struggle already had stung the consciences of kindly Kansas City people. Sunday School classes and church clubs had stretched out friendly hands. The Y. W. C. A. offered valuable advantages to the young women who could afford its privileges. Minimum wage advocates and the Woman's Trade Union League were trying to get a better wage into the employed girl's pay envelope. People whose intentions were better than their understanding had written letters to the papers scolding, moralizing, and sentimentalizing around the working girl and her problems; and still the lonely, hungry, often desperate faces of thousands of young wage-earners were a tragic undercurrent in the life-stream of the city.

"These girls need the human touch," Miss Huff decided. "Right away, when they come to the city, they need it. They come from the loneliness of their little towns straight into the more menacing loneliness of the city. They come expecting fun and companionship, and the city denies them. Working nine hours a day, eating a ten-cent lunch, going home alone at night to a cheerless bit of a back room—that isn't living! If some of them figure in police court tragedies, we've only our own indifference to thank."

If an area of a city is devastated by a cyclone or a flood, there is instant community coöperation for relief. The selfish and unthoughtful are shocked awake. Millionaires and servant girls and clubwomen and newsboys contribute to funds. Homes are thrown open to the shelterless. The dormant kindness in the hearts of thousands is welded into a single force.

But how to arouse this sleeping giant of good-will and community responsibility when the need is less dramatic, although possibly more poignant and imperative? This was Miss Huff's problem. Her solution is the Big Sister Association.

"Suppose she were my little sister?"

That is the question a Big Sister is pledged to ask herself when she sees a little sister who is lonely, distressed, or in danger. She answers by taking the girl under her motherly wing. Then the girl herself becomes a link in the continuing chain of helpfulness. She joins the Big Sisters, wears a Big Sister pin, goes to Big Sister meetings, and does her bit to spread the gospel of sisterhood—to make the world safe and friendly for other girl workers.

Three years ago the Big Sisters were a small group of young women with a great hope. To-day their hope seems on the way to realization. There are nearly a thousand active Big Sisters and many more associate workers. The idea has spread to other large cities and to many smaller communities.

The Big Sisters are affiliated with every church in Kansas City through the young women's Bible classes. There is a committee of Big Sisters on each floor of every Kansas City department store, keeping a keen lookout for the girl who needs help. Most of the factories, laundries, and large offices have a Big Sister group among the employees. A committee of Big Sisters investigates rooms and boarding houses in search of those who offer wholesome surroundings

at a cost within the girl worker's income. Other committees plan parties, picnics, lectures, dinners, and socials. There is a department which assists girls to find suitable work, and to train themselves for better positions.

#### *Hospitality that Helps*

The time is almost any morning; the place, Miss Huff's office, which is also the office of the Big Sisters. A kindly, capable-looking young woman is working at the desk. A telephone rings.

"This is Mrs. B.," a voice explains, "I wish to invite two little sisters to dinner Sunday. I'm asking two or three

nice young people from my husband's office to meet them. We're planning a drive for the afternoon."

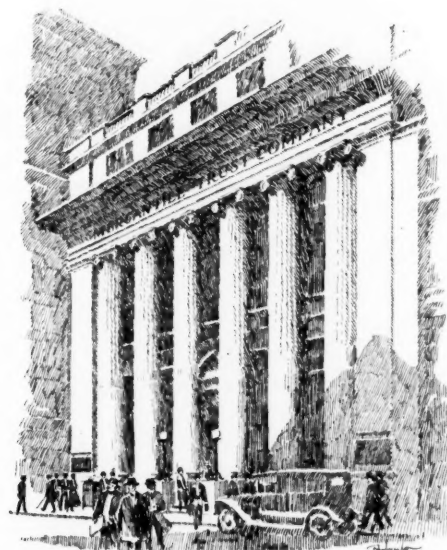
The Big Sister at the desk knows Mrs. B. as one of a group of well-to-do women who have agreed to extend to small-salaried girls the same hospitality and neighborliness the small town gives to newcomers. From a list of such girls, she checks off two. Then she turns to the morning mail. A ten-dollar banknote is pinned to the first letter. "Use this as you think best to help some little sister. Given in memory of my own little sister who once spent some lonely months in a big city," reads an

anonymous message on a sheet of note paper.

The next letter is from the generous-hearted wife of a Kansas farmer:

I have read in the papers of your good work to make the city friendly to homeless girls. We have a large farmhouse two hours' drive from the city. The farm motor car is in town every Saturday afternoon, and I shall be glad to have it sent all through the summer for two or three little sisters who would enjoy Sundays in the country. We have plenty of pure milk, thick cream, fresh eggs, country butter, and garden vegetables—and there is always chicken for

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Sunday dinner. On nice days we take picnic baskets to the woods.

The young woman enters the name of the farmer's wife on her list of volunteer helpers. Much coöperation of this kind has been offered since the Big Sister idea commenced to spread. An elderly woman with a large library asked to be put in touch with a "bookish" girl whom she might invite to tea and give access to her shelves. A clergyman's wife found room for two little sisters at dinner every Thursday. A business man and his wife with no family and a large touring car decided to practice the Golden Rule to the extent of taking four little sisters to drive an evening each week.

A letter from the president of an auxiliary Big Sister Association in a small town has an important message, for it gives information concerning a seventeen-year-old girl, a farmer's daughter, who is coming from a hamlet in the Arkansas Ozarks to find a job in the city.

When a little sister arrives alone in a big town, it is the duty of a Big Sister to meet her at the train, take her to safe, low-priced lodgings, and give her the merry welcome which shoos away homesickness. From the day of her arrival friendly hands are extended.

Into the downtown office of the Big Sisters came one day a frail girl of nineteen whose face and manner showed worry and overstrain. At the first friendly word she buried her face in her handkerchief, and melted into a shaking, sobbing bundle.

The Big Sisters had helped scores of little sisters. She knew the indications of poverty and unemployment.

"You've been sick?"

The girl nodded, still weeping.

"You lost your job? And"—glancing at the frayed frock—"your clothes began to wear out. So you couldn't find work easily. Then your landlady—"

The bundle found a voice.

"She says she'll put me on the street to-night if I don't pay her and—and I spent my last dime yesterday. I'd made five dollars last four weeks. I—I owe her for a month's rent—and I don't know where to go."

"You're going to lunch with me this minute," smiled the Big Sister, slipping a comforting arm around the shivering shoulders, "and you're not to worry a bit more. I'll look out for the clothes, and the job, and the landlady."

That is the Big Sister way; no hesitation, no inquiries as to "worthiness;" no cold, impersonal charity. When a girl is in need she is to be helped in exactly the same spirit a mother would bring to the succor of a troubled daughter.

A month later the little sister—who had become a Big Sister—noticed a commotion in an overheated department store basement. A saleswoman had fainted. She had been ill, one of her co-workers explained, and had returned to work too soon.

The Big Sister took the woman's name and address, and that night called on her.

"I haven't much to give you but my room," she explained. "It's tiny, but at a pinch it will do for two. I know how

rent piles up when you're sick. I'll make my salary do for both of us until you're well—if I can. If we can't quite manage it, the Big Sisters will help."

It made no difference in this case that the Big Sister was barely eighteen, and her charge a worn, nervous woman of thirty-eight.

Most of the friendly deeds of the Big Sisters are a secret between the girl who is assisted and her benefactor, and are not known even to leaders of the movement.

There are so many ways to help the little sister who isn't getting on. Some Big Sisters who worked in a downtown office got acquainted with an ambitious little girl of sixteen who was struggling along at \$5.50 a week and longing to fit herself for a better position. They found her an opportunity to earn her board and meals by light housework and "grub-staked" her to a business college course which enabled her to more than double her former salary.

Two Big Sisters found a little sister who had been forced to leave high school because she hadn't suitable clothes. They replenished her wardrobe from their own, and sent her back to her classes.

A Big Sister coming from a jeweler's shop not long ago saw a young girl looking longingly at a display of wrist-watches in the window. A man sauntered by, looked sharply at the girl and stopped before the window.

"If you'll come with me," the Big Sister overheard, "I'll show you some watches much prettier than these."

The Big Sister walked on, but she looked back. She saw the man and girl walking away. She followed, of course.

Five minutes later they had reached a street lined on either side by cheap rooming houses. The Big Sister put a hand on the young girl's shoulder.

"I hope I'm not making a mistake," she said pleasantly, "but I thought perhaps you were a stranger to the city. Have you seen this man before? Do you know where you're going?"

The man stopped for no explanations. He walked hastily away. The little sister was penitent.

"Mother told me never to speak to strangers," she confessed, "but this man seemed a real gentleman. I had all Saturday afternoon to myself, and I was lonesome. I thought I'd take a chance."

"I had a half-hour to wait in a department store the other day," said one Big Sister at a dinner of the association. "Instead of sitting down and doing nothing, I walked about, talking to the girl employees. Of the twelve I talked with, seven came here from farms and small towns. Six of the seven told me that, in the years they had been here, nobody had ever asked them to a home, or to a church, or to a Bible class. One of them said: 'You are the first woman who has ever spoken to me directly as one woman to another in the three years I have lived in Kansas City.'"

The Big Sisters know that of all forms of unhappiness loneliness is the most dangerous and poisonous. Their slogan is: "Find the lonely girl!" They search for her in the shops, factories, and offices; in cheap boarding houses; in the low-priced restaurants and café-



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terias; on the street cars. A girl who has been lonely knows the signs of despair as an Indian reads the language of the forest. She understands the significance of worry line drawn around a trembling mouth; of a quick turning away and a sudden dab at the eyes; of the scant lunch eaten very slowly, with an intense regard for every crumb.

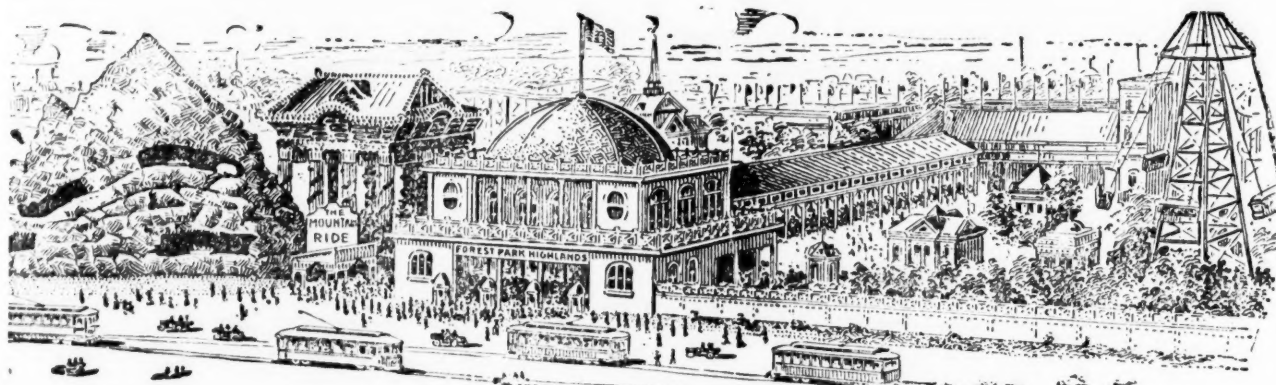
It was Robert Louis Stevenson who protested that his duty to his neighbor was not to make him good, but to make him happy. In this blithe, sensible Stevensonian spirit is the charm of the Big Sister movement. The little sisters are largely of the best American stock. Give them wholesome fun and friends and their morals will take care of themselves. The Big Sisters preach not at all, but practice a great deal. They

know the psychology of their kind better than most social workers and philanthropists. Nobody—not even a \$6-a-week shopgirl—enjoys being "done good to." A comradely lift over a hard place volunteered spontaneously by one who has herself known hard places may be accepted light-heartedly; but no wage-earning girls relish advice from comfortable, superior folk who haven't an inkling of the grim conditions of their struggle. The sisterly counsel of a fellow-worker will be taken in good part. No girl wishes charity, but the loan which may tide her over a time of fearful need will be accepted without humiliation if it comes from one who "has been there" and really understands.

The Big Sister movement was organized by working women, for working



# Forest Park Highlands



## Mammoth Outdoor Swimming Pool NOW OPEN

The great out-door Swimming Pool is now open to the public, the tank contains 400,000 gallons of water which is filtered and purified every three hours, by the Ultra Violet Ray System, which is conceded to be the only method of destroying germs in water, which makes the pool more desirable than river or lake bathing. Competent life guards are on duty continuously. Exclusive ladies' hours from 8 to 12 every morning except Sunday.

Our big Vaudeville Bill this week contains the following Orpheum Circuit Acts:

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Benny and Woods  
Chas. F. Seamon  
Gertrude Barnes  
The Seebacks

The big Restaurant is more popular than ever this season, the prices are reasonable and the service first-class.

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women. It is officered by women and girls from shops, offices and factories. Its policy is advised by a group of business women who in winning success for themselves have mapped out crooks and turns in the road that younger feet must travel. At the monthly dinners of the organization, women who have won recognition in law, teaching, business, and medicine fraternize with girls who are hesitating on the first rung of the ladder. These older women know girl psychology—and human nature; for that reason they have avoided the mistakes of those who wish to help the employed girl, yet fail to understand her sensitive, independent, self-reliant spirit.

The Big Sister Association has incorporated for the purpose of raising funds to build a young woman's hotel which, it is believed, will solve the housing problem for the woman wage-earner. The hotel will contain attractive, comfortable rooms which may be rented for \$1.00 a week. Food will be supplied at cost in a cafeteria. There will be an auditorium for lectures, concerts, and social gatherings, and small parlors where the young women may entertain their young men acquaintances and friends without espionage. The venture will be managed democratically by the Big Sister Association. There will be as few rules as possible and no humiliating restrictions. The expense to each girl will be so small that she will be able to save a little fund for vacation travel and self-improvement even from a meager salary.

Why do Big Sisters enjoy helping

little ones? Why do busy, successful women give without stint of their time and strength to make the movement a success? Why do harassed, poverty-haunted girl wage earners work with missionary fervor to pass on the white flame of friendship to those who are just a little weaker, just a little needier, just a little lonelier than themselves?

The mother instinct! That's the answer. Even the routine of busy offices and the cast-iron system of efficiency experts cannot smother the age-old longing of womankind. The world of industry has no place for the emotional and affectional life of its women workers. The Big Sister movement gives this primal impulse an outlet, and sets it to work smoothing out the rough places for all women who earn.

"The Big Sister movement isn't philanthropy or reform," says Miss Huff, "It's living!"

♦♦♦

An Englishwoman went into an egg store and asked for fresh eggs. "Yes, mum, plenty," said the shopman; "them with a hen on 'em are fresh." "I don't see any with a hen on them," said the lady, looking around for a nest. "The letter 'hen,' mum, not the bird. 'Hen' stands for noo-laid, mum."

♦♦♦

"Charley, dear," said young Mrs. Torkins, "I have good news." "What is it?" "The bank sent me word that my account is overdrawn. I looked in the synonym book and found that 'overdrawn' is the same as 'exaggerated.'"—*Buffalo Courier.*

## Marts and Money

On the exchange in Wall street the state of things shows no important changes. Fluctuations are light in most all barometric cases, and the daily totals of transfers indicate substantial contraction when compared with recent maximum records. The great bulk of business is done in industrial and mining stocks. Whenever quotations for these are raised two or three points, brokerage offices are thronged with excited speculators and gossip files impatiently thumbed. In front of the longitudinal blackboard chartists are busy drawing mystical lines in their notebooks, order clerks surround the telegraph operators, the "customers' man" smiles suavely as he tried to explain how it all happened, and the bookkeepers hastily page their ledgers as they open new marginal accounts. The overwhelming majority of traders favors the long side; no question about that. Their hearts abide where their treasure is, and they do not trouble to disguise their feelings. There are multifarious opportunities for psychologic studies in these offices. Railroad stocks still are decidedly unpopular, despite confident talk that the very near future should bring news of a gratifying advance in freight rates. Their quoted values are materially under the high notches of the first month of the year, and there is burdensome selling in all hours of moderate improvement. Southern Pacific, a safe 6 per cent stock, is rated at 93½, or about seven points below the maxi-

mum of 1916. Wall street paid hardly any attention to the strikingly fine statement submitted by the company for last month, though the net gain in revenues exceeded \$2,000,000. For reasons satisfactory to themselves, the stock exchange folks have come to the conclusion that a higher dividend rate need not be expected in 1917. It is an indisputable fact, however, that 7 or 8 per cent could conveniently be disbursed. In the fall of 1909, Southern Pacific was in hot demand for a while at prices ranging from 135 to 139½; the dividend then was no larger than it is to-day.

Missouri Pacific is quoted at 30, the best price in several months. On December 26, 1916, sales were made at 38½. The new certificates of the reorganized company are about ready for distribution. There is quite a deal of commendatory information in respect to their inherent merits and future value; the fact that they have been placed in a five-year voting trust evokes no critical discussion. Representative opinion is that the new Missouri Pacific will prove a profitable investment, and that the fixed 5 per cent rate on the \$76,751,635 preferred stock will or could be paid from date of incorporation, though it will not be cumulative until June 30, 1918. Something like 7 or 8 per cent is expected to be earned on the \$82,839,585 common in the first year of operation, but there is no probability that owners of this stock will receive dividends before January 1, 1919. Common stockholders of the Reading Co. had to



wait nine years for their first dividend; those of the Union Pacific, three years; those of the Atchison, six years. We may take it for granted that President B. F. Bush will rigidly adhere three or four years longer to his splendid policy of devoting millions of dollars to permanent upbuilding purposes. By doing that he will further the real interests of common shareholders greatly more than he would by authorizing an early commencement of dividend payments. As matters stand, we are justified in the belief that the time is not very remote when the Missouri Pacific will be as magnificent a system as the Atchison or Northern Pacific.

United States Steel common is rated at 130½ at present; a few days ago it could be bought at 125½, or at a figure denoting a depreciation of \$11 when contrasted with the recent top record. The break in this stock, as well as in all other favorite industrials, followed disquieting intimations from Washington in regard to intentions of the administration to seize and operate numerous important plants for war purposes. There were unpleasant hints, also, that the prices of steel, metals, and other materials may startlingly be lowered not only in Washington contracts, but likewise in such as will be placed for the account of allied nations. On top of all this discouraging gossip came new intimidating conjectures as to congressional plans of taxation of war profits. Latest advices from the capital are considered decidedly more encouraging. They deny intentions of nationalizing industrial and mining properties and of setting low prices for materials for allied account. Price reductions we are given to understand will apply solely to Washington's purchases. In Wall street circles it is pointed out that the Federal government would seriously prejudice its own financial interests if it insisted upon special favors to allies in the filling of contracts for war supplies. Such a course on its part would be expressly calculated to cut revenues from taxation on excess war profits, curtail the capacity of corporations to meet demands for increased wages, and disarrange economic conditions in general. As a result of more reassuring statements from the capital, the quotations for the leading industrial and mining shares have registered either partial or full recoveries from the latest spell of depression. Especially prominent in the upward movement was Baldwin Locomotive common, which has drawn no dividends since January 1, 1915. The net gain in this case was over \$8. The prevailing price of 73 compares with 43 on February 3 last, and with 118½ on January 3, 1916. In the violent rise of 1915, the stock went to 154½. The last yearly report of the company was distinctly disappointing. It disclosed but a small percentage earned on the \$20,000,000 common outstanding, after payment of the stipulated 7 per cent on a like amount of preferred. Friends of the common stock feel absolutely certain, however, that under the new order of things, superinduced by the entrance of this country into the European war and the enormous demand for railroad equipment of all kinds, a resumption of payments on the stock

may reasonably be looked for towards the end of 1917 or early in 1918.

The other day brokers had some wonderful bull dope on tap respecting automobile issues. It dwelled in persuasive style on big requirements of motor trucks along the battle-lines; likewise on the probability that the automobile corporations will be awarded highly remunerative contracts for the manufacturing of aeroplanes and various other materials. In response to the clever toutting, Studebaker scored an advance of nearly five points. The current price is 85, against 110½ on January 17; the absolute maximum, set in 1915, is 195. Holders get \$10 per annum. The incipient boom in this class of certificates was badly hurt, however, when it became known that the Saxon Motor Corporation had passed the quarterly dividend of \$1.75 on its \$6,000,000 stock outstanding, payments on which were begun in July, 1916. These shares, which sold at 68 last January and at 84¾ last September, are at present valued at 15 to 18. When the proper moment arrives, the automobile industry will be urgently in need of the services of skillful physicians and surgeons of finance, at least for some of its most modern, rashly capitalized corporate representatives.

Frenzied speculation for long account has driven the quotations for cotton to 27 cents a pound—another high mark. Further advances are thought inevitable. Owing to the unparalleled state of affairs, trading in futures has been suspended on the cotton exchange in Liverpool. It is conceivable that the Washington officials may have to interfere before long with the sensational stunts of the speculators. News regarding the condition of cotton fields is none too good. Concerning grain crops, information continues favorable, taken as a whole. From the Southwest come reports of damage by drouth, from the Northwest and some parts of the Middle West, reports of damage by unseasonably cool and rainy weather.

The New York money market shows no relaxation as yet. For call funds, the rates are 6 to 6½ per cent; for time funds, 5½ to 6 per cent. The excess of bank reserves is down to \$41,827,230; this establishes a new absolute minimum since the organization of the new national system. Russian exchange shows a little improvement, but French and Italian rates are lower. The current quotation for lire bills is 7.37; parity is 5.19½. Additional imports of gold have increased the sum total since January 1 to nearly \$460,000,000. New York City will sell \$55,000,000 4½ per cent corporate stock on July 12. The date of maturity for the greater part of this amount will be July 1, 1917. Some prominent financial authorities question the advisability of such a sale in prevailing monetary circumstances. It is a noteworthy fact that since January 10 last, New York City's 4½s, of 1917, have depreciated from 110½ to 103.

#### Finance in St. Louis

In the local market for securities business was of modest proportions. The speculative crowd took due note of the hardening money markets, and concluded therefrom that declines of a few points

should not be considered altogether unlikely. They paid close attention, also, to the vacillatory movements in New York. Their "nerve" was sustained, however, by the distinct firmness of some important quotations. Of heavy liquidation there was no evidence, and there is no visible reason why there should be at present or in the next few months. In the industrial department, National Candy common still is among the fashionable features. More than five hundred shares were transferred at 26.75 to 27.25; the latter figure denotes a new top notch. Ely-Walker D. G. common was strikingly active, with the total of sales comprising one hundred and sixty shares. Prices paid ranged from 104.50 to 105. The second preferred stock is quoted at 87.50 bid, 89 asked. These figures indicate a little stiffening in the attitude of owners. Seventy shares of Brown Shoe common brought 72 to 73; ten Certain-teed Products common, 43, and ten Consolidated Coal, 50.

There were no especially interesting transactions in the banking group. Twenty Bank of Commerce changed hands at 111.50 to 112, prices previously effective. The stock is quoted ex dividend. The quotations for other leading stocks of this class indicate unchanged market conditions. The 4 per cent bonds of the United Railways Co. are a trifle higher in price; 1,000 were taken at 59.12½. St. Louis Brewing 6s are purchasable at 70. There are no bids for them at the moment.

St. Louis rates for time loans are firmly kept at 5½ to 6 per cent. Drafts on New York remain at a discount of about 12 cents. A further sharp rise in charge is not regarded as probable. The requirements of the agricultural communities are no longer anticipated with timid feelings. The Federal Reserve system is prepared to meet them completely and promptly, without stirring up trouble on the Wall street stock exchange.

#### Latest Quotations

	Bid	Asked
German Savings Inst.....	200	
Nat. Bank of Commerce.....	111½	
State National Bank.....	200	
Third National Bank.....	237½	
United Railways pfd.....	19	19½
do 4s.....	59	59½
Laclede Gas 5s.....	99	
Mo. Portland Cement.....	80	82
Ely & Walker com.....	107	
do 1st pfd.....	107½	
do 2d pfd.....	87½	89
*International Shoe com.....	98½	
Certain-teed com.....	44	45
Rice-Stix com.....	215	
Granite-Bimetallic.....	55	65
American Bakery com.....	14	
do pfd.....	56	
Hamilton-Brown.....	34	
St. L. Brew. Ass'n 6s.....	69	
Independent Brew. 6s.....	35¾	
National Candy com.....	28¾	28%
Chicago Ry. Equipment.....	107	
Wagner Electric.....	185	190
Brown Shoe com.....	71	71¾
*Ex-dividend.		

#### Answers to Inquiries

FINANCE, St. Joseph, Mo.—Chino Copper is a stock of unquestionable merits, but not an investment of a superior sort. It does not rank equal with Anaconda and Utah. The present price is 57. It represents a reasonable valuation, in

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We have sold more electric ranges during the first five months of 1917 than during the entire three years 1914, 1915 and 1916 combined.

The ranges are wonderfully economical and satisfactory. We sell only the best, at prices running from \$35.00 up to \$225.00, according to size.

St. Louis housewives have learned that electric cooking really IS the cleanest, coolest, easiest, best and cheapest way to cook.

Our easy-payment plan has enabled hundreds to buy ranges who might have hesitated to pay all cash down.

Our low rates have been a big factor.

On May 1 we cut the third step in our residence rates, **FOR RANGE USERS**, from 3 cents a kilowatt hour to 2 cents.

The 8-cent primary rate and the 6-cent secondary rate, calculated to cover cost of delivering the small amount of energy used for lighting, remain the same.

Our 2-cent rate to range users is calculated to cover cost of excess energy used for cooking and other domestic purposes. It is the lowest residence rate in any big American city. It is probably the main reason why St. Louis folks are to-day buying more electric ranges than the people of any other city.

One hundred and fifty kilowatt hours per month is a liberal allowance for the average family of four persons in a 6-room house or flat with three "counted rooms." It is plenty for lighting, cooking, washing, ironing, sweeping, sewing, etc. A Union Electric range customer with three "counted rooms" now pays for it on this basis:

12 kilowatt hrs. at 8c per kwh.....	\$ .96
9 " " " 6c " " .....	.54
129 " " " 2c " " .....	2.58

Total gross charge .....\$4.08  
Less 5 per cent prompt payment discount .20

Net monthly bill .....\$3.88

St. Louis housekeepers simply **CAN'T AFFORD TO USE OLD-FASHIONED COOKING EQUIPMENT**, when they can cook the easiest, cleanest, coolest, best way with 2-cent electricity. The electric range begins paying for itself, in money, time and labor saved, the day you start using it.

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view of quarterly dividend payments (regular and extra) of \$2.50. If this rate could be considered permanent, the stock would be worth 90. In 1914, the sum total of dividends was only \$2.50. Last year's maximum price of 74 is not likely to be reached this year. In case of an advance of several points, let go, and take a few days off. Wall street will have a market a while longer.

INQUISITIVE, St. Louis.—You need not look for a resumption of payments on Cleveland, C., C. & St. Louis (Big Four) common in the next twelve months. Railroad directors are a highly conservative lot nowadays, hopes of a good rate increase notwithstanding. Operating expenses are mounting and the labor question remains unsolved, in view of the growing cost of living. For this reason, and sundry others, would advise letting Big Four alone and buying something more attractive at the first inviting opportunity. In existing conditions, one should not put surplus money into stocks that get no substantial dividends. There are too many choice things obtainable, both in the stock and bond markets, to justify unremunerative investments.

TED, Salina, Kan.—Burlington 4s, Nebraska division, are a choice investment. The decline of six points in the past seven months was due to downward tendencies in the general market. You should not liquidate unless you have the intention of repurchasing at a still lower level. The current value is 94¼. Not many years ago the bonds were rated at 107. I seriously doubt if that mark will be reached again before date of maturity—in 1927.

M. A. W., Oklahoma, Okla.—If you are not obliged to sell, you might hold Rock Island 6 per cent preferred for a speculation. The reorganized company should not find it difficult to pay the full rate on this stock, as well as on the 7 per cent preferred. Both rates are cumulative up to 5 per cent. The present price of the 6 per cent preferred shows a material depreciation when contrasted with the highest level established on the curb last year. If these were normal times, both stocks would be quoted at 90 to 110, Federal regulation notwithstanding.

J. D. P., Madison, Wis.—There's any amount of bull talk on Pacific Mail. Stock is tipped for 50. Interest in the shares has been stimulated by the initiation of dividend payments. Like all marine lines, the company is doing a fine business and should continue doing it for some years to come, owing to the extraordinary scarcity of tonnage. If you are determined to gamble, you might try your luck in Pacific Mail. In pre-war times the stock proved a very costly speculation for most everybody who touched it, except the insiders. The new management is thought conservative and resolved to work for the stockholders instead of Wall street.

SUBSCRIBER, Racine, Wis.—American Writing Paper preferred is not a tempting speculation. Has too narrow a market. While the preferred draws 4 per cent, it is entitled to 7 per cent, the dividend being cumulative. There is more than 100 per cent in arrears. The high price of last year—76¼—brought heavy liquidation for inside account. Since its

establishment the stock has not enjoyed vigorous clique support. Too much of it is held by the "dear public."

\*\*\*

## The Lily and the Cabbage

By Feodor Sologub

A lily reared her head in the garden. She was serenely white, and beautiful and proud.

Quietly she addressed herself to the passing wind:

"Have more care. I am the queenly lily, and King Solomon himself did not dress as beautifully as I."

Quite close by, in the vegetable garden, grew a she-cabbage.

She overheard the speech of the lily, whereupon she laughed, and said:

"This old Solomon was, in my opinion, a mere *sansculotte*! How did these ancients dress? They barely covered their nakedness with scant drapery, and imagined that they were robed in the height of fashion. It was I who taught people how to dress, I may safely take credit for the following plan: First there is the naked stump, upon that goes the first wrap, then a shirt, upon that a jacket, upon the jacket a petticoat, upon the petticoat another petticoat, then another wrap, another shirt, another jacket, another petticoat, then a shawl above and a shawl below and a shawl on each side—until the stump becomes invisible. Now this is both warm and modest."

\*\*\*

Fond Mother—Dorothy, if you are bad you won't go to heaven. Don't you know that?

Little Dorothy—Well, I've been to the circus and the Chautauqua already. I can't expect to go everywhere.—Orange Peel.

\*\*\*

Majors James A. Moss and M. B. Stewart of the United States army make a frank appeal for recruits in their attractive booklet, "Our Flag and its Message," issued by the Lippincotts. As though to impress upon each American his share in the flag and obligation to it, the authors begin with the president's "few words of earnest counsel and appeal" addressed to "my fellow-citizens" at the time of the declaration of a state of war. The president's message—destined to be termed a classic by future generations—is really the book's excuse for being, since the brief history of the flag and the interpretation of its symbolism which follow may be found in slightly different wordings in almost any school history. The flag's plea is stated as "a mute entreaty to cherish it, to keep it as it has been handed down to us, and to defend it." Then these army officers ask the reader: "What is your answer to this silent plea of our flag?"

\*\*\*

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umbrella I had borrowed from him.—  
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MacMillan; \$3.50.

This is the first biography of Swinburne to  
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OVER THE TOP by Arthur Guy Empey. New  
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